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Last-minute snags raise tension in MIA-prisoner swap

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
and news agencies

A DEAL brokered by Germany to swap Hizbullah prisoners for the bodies of two Israeli soldiers abducted in a south Lebanon ambush a decade ago appeared imminent late last night, but last-minute snags and revelations of the deal to the media threatened to postpone or even to negate it.

Reports from Lebanon said German security officials had examined the remains of the two corpses to verify their identities and seal the deal. According to the reports, Israel is to swap 200 Shi'ite prisoners and the bodies of slain Hizbullah gunmen for the bodies of Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh.

But reports from Beirut late last night quoted one Hizbullah official as saying the whole deal may be off, since it had been leaked to the media.

In Israel, the defense establishment steadily refused to confirm or deny the reports, even as details emerged throughout the day.

Yesterday morning, IDF troops helped military chaplains remove the bodies of at least 14 Hizbullah gunmen killed in clashes in south Lebanon and buried here. Using tractors, the troops exhumed the bodies from numbered graves at a special cemetery, near Kibbutz Gadot along the banks of the Jordan River. The bodies were loaded onto trucks and then apparently taken to the Lebanese



Joseph Fink

border for the impending swap.

The deal also calls for Israel to hand over 200 prisoners in Khiam detention center in the security zone and two Shi'ite leaders, sources told AP.

Israel has traditionally said it would not free Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani unless it obtains information on missing IAF navigator Ron Arad. Both Obeid and Dirani were kidnapped by commandos to be used as bargaining chips in the negotiations.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres confirmed to reporters that negotiations, mediated by Germany, have been under way with Hizbullah since the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

"I spoke about this with



Rahamim Levi Alsheikh

Chancellor (Helmut) Kohl during my trip to Germany," Peres told Israel Radio.

In Beirut, government sources said the secret negotiations were being carried out by Bernd Schmidbauer, Kohl's security adviser, AP reported. According to the report, a six-man German delegation, including a coroner and a forensic expert, arrived at mid-afternoon aboard a chartered jet. They carried IDF dental charts and other records on Fink and Alsheikh. AP reported that the deal had been delayed by snags, and is to take place today.

The exact location of the soldiers' remains is not known, and Lebanese authorities barred newsmen and photographers from approaching the Germans or film-

ing their arrival.

Schmidbauer, who has helped broker hostage releases in the past, was in Damascus discussing the exchange with Hizbullah leaders and Syrian and Lebanese officials, government sources in Beirut told AP.

Foreign Minister David Levy said he is more hopeful than in the past that the exchange will place. "There are things that until the last moment - and we have learned this from past experience - can suddenly change, but there's certainly room for more optimism," Levy told Army Radio.

This is not the first time that Israel has tried to bring back the two bodies. But it is the first time it has reportedly removed the link

(Continued on Page 2)

Half-million strike against economic plan

MICHAL YUDELMAN

MOST of the public sector shut down yesterday, as some half a million workers struck to protest against the government's economic program.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz warned that unless the government revokes the economic measures, the Histadrut will continue its campaign against them.

Histadrut and union leaders promised to "drive the government and state crazy" and strike a different sector every week, until the government revises its economic decisions.

Foreign Minister David Levy attacked the government for economic decrees he said harm workers and criticized it for not negotiating with the workers' representatives. He called on the government to talk to the representatives and come up with an economic plan with them, rather than dictate to them.

Levy expressed fear that unless the government does so, it will not be able to carry out its privatization plans.

The strike, called by the Histadrut, encompassed most of the public sector, government ministries and corporations, public summer schools and day-care



Workers protest against the government's new economic program in front of the Knesset during yesterday's strike. (Brian Heller)

centers, local authorities, post offices, and banks. It also disrupted flight schedules.

But dozens of customs workers in Jerusalem worked as usual despite the strike, as did the capital's health fund clinics. Some 1,000 municipal workers in Kiryat Motzkin and Kiryat Ata also worked as usual, after failing to obtain satisfactory answers from the Histadrut concerning

payment during the strike.

Many thousands of workers demonstrated outside the Knesset yesterday morning. Peretz, who addressed them, said, "We take the government's decisions of economic decrees seriously, and we believe it when it announces that it intends to harm the pension agreements and pension funds."

Peretz blasted the government for causing the stock market

crash. "It kept announcing day and night that the economy is in a crisis, until the public started believing it and the investors now won't go near the stock market," he said.

"What does the government have to say to the workers who invested their savings in the provident funds? These are not market speculators but hard-working employees," he said.

Yehoshua Peretz, the prominent former Ashdod workers' leader, accused the government of "dividing the country into masters and servants."

The incoming and outgoing bulls at Ben-Gurion Airport were empty most of the day, despite a Labor Court ruling allowing only a one-hour strike there. El Al and the foreign airlines had already

(Continued on Page 2)

Levy-Arafat meeting expected next week

Netanyahu flies to Egypt today for Mubarak meeting
DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu informed the cabinet on Tuesday that he has authorized Foreign Minister David Levy to meet with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, and sources said the meeting will take place next week.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu heads to Cairo today for his first visit to an Arab country since taking office. There is speculation the Arafat-Levy meeting will be formally announced in Cairo, and Netanyahu is expected to tell President Hosni Mubarak that the closure of the territories will be eased.

Levy told reporters he would meet with Arafat in the "next few days." He will be the first cabinet minister to meet with Arafat.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat publicly challenged Netanyahu to hold talks based on reciprocity, with each side listing the other's alleged violations of the Oslo Accords.

During Netanyahu's visit to Egypt, he is also expected to reiterate to Mubarak what officials say he told President Bill Clinton last week - a general commitment that the IDF will redeploy in Hebron and that Israel would adhere to "every clause" of the accords, but without providing the exact shape of the redeployment.

He is also expected to inform Mubarak that he has instructed his aides to meet with members of the US Congress and seek their support for a Cairo-based Middle East development bank. He is also to express strong support for the economic summit scheduled this fall.

Egyptian officials have not committed to a joint press conference after the talks, due to uncertainty about the outcome of the talks and whether questioning would underscore the differences between the sides.

Netanyahu's senior foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold, flew to Cairo yesterday for talks with Mubarak's national security

adviser, Osama Baz.

On Tuesday night in Tel Aviv, Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabriti briefed Netanyahu on talks he held in Cairo. Kabriti emerged from the meeting saying he believes Netanyahu is sincere in his commitment to move forward with peace.

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny told a Tel Aviv University symposium on the peace process yesterday that Cairo wants to hear about Israel's adherence to past peace agreements with the Palestinians and prospects for progress on this track in the future.

"We want the prime minister to know what is possible and impossible to do with the peace process."

(Continued on Page 2)

We're on strike? Hey, let's go shopping!

HUNDREDS of thousands of striking workers took advantage of yesterday's strike-generated "holiday" and went on family shopping sprees, picnics and trips to water and amusement parks.

Air-conditioned shopping malls were crowded with parents and children seeking entertainment and refuge from the heat.

Long lines of disgruntled people formed in front of automatic teller machines, which continued operating although the banks were closed.

But anyone who needed municipal services or had any business at the courthouses or government

ministries found a "closed" sign on the door. Others complained of disruptions in train and bus lines.

But many people did not even notice the strike.

"The traffic on the Ayalon Highway and in Tel Aviv was the same as always," said Dalia Ehrlich, who drove in from Holon in seven minutes flat. "Even the parking lot I use in Tel Aviv wasn't any more crowded than on other mornings. I didn't feel a thing."

Phyllis Glazer realized there was a strike only when she dialed

Bezeq's information service and received no answer. "My two daughters go to private summer schools, so there's no change in that," she said.

"I have some urgent business at the bank, as well as a deposit to make," jeweler Semadar Michalel said worriedly. "I don't know what to do. It can't wait."

"I understand why the strike is necessary, but I feel it won't do any good, said a shopper at the Co-Op Supermarket in Tel Aviv's London Minstore. "The weaker people, the employees, always lose out and the government fat cats win."

Netanyahu: Budget cuts won't be changed

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE recently announced budget cuts will be executed to the letter, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu declared yesterday at the annual Caesarea Conference of Israel's economic decision makers.

Netanyahu said he was making this commitment in full coordination with Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz, who could be seen nodding in agreement. The prime minister's statement appeared to be a refutation of what Foreign Minister David Levy had said at the conference earlier.

Netanyahu went on to address other issues, stating, "Arab democratization is the internal affair of Arab states and is by no means a condition for any sort of discourse between Israel and its neighbors."

Had Israel been surrounded by democracies, regional peace would have been a far less "armed" affair, he continued, but it is inconceivable that anyone impose a form of government on Arab states the way Douglas MacArthur did in Japan after World War II.

Concerning the Palestinians, the prime minister said the agreements inherited from the previous government must be kept.

"We shall formalize our relations with the Palestinians," Netanyahu continued.

The absence of a framework with the Syrians similar to the one that exists with the Palestinians is an impediment to Syrian-Israeli relations, he said.

The prime minister also said that in his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak tomorrow he will discuss the conference on regional business, which is scheduled to take place in

King Hassan won't meet Arafat does

DAVID MAKOVSKY

KING Hassan of Morocco has linked a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to the premier's meeting Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, sources say.

When Netanyahu balked at the terms, Hassan turned down his request to stopover in Morocco during his return from the US earlier this week.

According to reports, Hassan refused to speak to Netanyahu on the phone after the May 29 election.

Israel and Morocco maintain liaison offices in each other's countries.

There is speculation that Hassan is interested in hosting a Netanyahu-Arafat meeting.

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Orient House problem may prevent French FM visit

ELDAD BECK
PARIS

Monday that de Charette would leave for the Middle East on July 22, his official spokesman said that no date has been fixed.

De Charette is due to visit Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Gaza and Egypt. The French administration also wants him to have his first high-level contact with the new Israeli government. However, he announced that, despite Israeli objections, he intends to pay a visit to Orient House for meetings with Palestinian representatives.

Israel made it clear that it would not accept such defiance of its sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Both sides are aware that a de Charette visit to Orient House might give the Israeli government

a reason to close it down, as was suggested during the election campaign.

According to Israeli sources, two scenarios are possible if de Charette decides to visit Orient House: Soon after the visit, Israel would close down Orient House, placing responsibility on the French; or Israel would not allow de Charette to enter Orient House. In both cases, Israeli sources foresee a political crisis with the Palestinians and a diplomatic clash with the French government.

To avoid that, other ideas are being examined. One would be de Charette stopping in Israel for a few hours for talks with Foreign Minister David Levy in Tel Aviv. Another is to have de Charette and Netanyahu meet in Jordan, in which case he would not visit Israel.

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MIAs' families hope to close circle

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE Finks and Alsheikhs have been through reports before that a deal was about to be made to return their slain sons for burial. But their hopes were always dashed, as the deals fell through and the waiting continued.

For both families, it is a case of not believing it anymore until they see the coffins. "We want it to come to some sort of end and get on with our lives," said Hadassah Fink. "Until they bring Yosef's body home, there will always be the illusion that it isn't true, that one day he'll come home safe and sound."

But Mordechai Fink just wants to close the circle. "This isn't some kind of overexcitement as if he is still alive. We know what we are expecting. It will simply be a lightening of our feelings. There is still pain and sorrow."

"Every Remembrance Day, I go to the military cemetery in Ra'anana. What do I do there? I belong there," he said, noting he

meets other bereaved friends. "But I don't have a grave before which I can stand and pour out my heart."

As a reminder to herself that she is not the only one who has lived in the shadow of a missing soldier, Hadassah Fink wears the dog tags of the six MIAs around her neck.

"There have been reports in the past, and nothing came of them. So this time we are waiting to see if anything happens. If we sit at home every time a rumor surfaces, waiting for nothing to ultimately happen, then we will break very quickly," she said.

In Rosh Ha'ayin, the family of Rahamim Alsheikh appears cautiously optimistic that this time, there is a bigger chance that the reports will bear fruit.

"We feel that something is happening, but there is still a long way to go. I fear that Hizbullah will change its mind at the last minute," said Rahamim's father, Shlomo.

Policy on MIAs is changing

BACKGROUND
DAN IZENBERG

THE projected release by Hizbullah of the bodies of Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh seems to indicate a change in Israeli policy regarding soldiers missing in action, according to Yossi Melman, a commentator on intelligence affairs for *Ha'aretz*.

Until now, Israel has demanded that any exchange be a package deal, including navigator Ron Arad, whose plane came down in southern Lebanon and who was captured by Shi'ite militiamen and reportedly handed over to Iran. Iran has denied any knowledge of Arad's whereabouts.

According to Melman, the parents of Fink and Alsheikh have always accepted government policy on this matter, even though they knew they could have had their sons' bodies back earlier had they protested loudly enough.

Now, says Melman, the question is whether or not the release of the bodies of the two Givat Brigade soldiers, captured and seriously wounded in a 1986 ambush in southern Lebanon, will be a precursor to the return of Arad. Melman is cautious, however, because he is

not certain Arad is still alive.

At any rate, the fact that a deal has been struck indicates "There is some kind of opening, however small, in the rock-like intransigence of Iran and Hizbullah," he added.

International contacts for the release of the MIAs have been going on for many years. Many countries and organizations have interceded with the Iranians, Syrians, and Palestinian terrorist groups on behalf of Arad and the three soldiers taken prisoner in the 1982 battle at Sultan Ya'acoub: Zacharya Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz.

However, the German government has had the most contact with Iran, said Melman.

There are two reasons for the German involvement. One is a genuine desire to help Israel. The other, however, is the desire of the Germans to save their consciences for their intensive economic relations with Iran. The German government has frequently rationalized its contacts with Iran by saying it uses them to seek the release of Israeli MIAs.



Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat speaks at a meeting with USAID in Nablus yesterday, as Planning Minister Nabil Shaath looks on. (Reuters)

PA council challenges Arafat's authority

PALESTINIAN Authority head Yasser Arafat locked horns with Palestinian lawmakers yesterday in a power struggle over a draft basic law that would limit his authority, lawmakers said.

They said Arafat withdrew a draft of the Palestinian Basic Law, which the 88-member Legislative Council had been discussing for several weeks, on the grounds that it had not gone through the proper channels before it was debated.

"The draft as a whole limits the authority of the president. A basic law would organize life through institutions and laws, something which we are not used to yet," said a minister in Arafat's cabinet.

Council member Hatem Abdel-Qader said: "There are political objectives for this. I see an

attempt to downplay the role of the council."

Arafat said his request was motivated by a desire to include the Palestine Liberation Organization, the source of authority for his administration, in the debate.

"This draft should not have come to you before it was reviewed by the legal committee of the PNC. It was a mistake. We should not bypass the authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization," he told the council.

Officials close to Arafat said he had been unhappy with provisions in the draft which would set limits on his authority. They did not elaborate.

The council was holding a reg-

ular session in Nablus. Legislators had delayed their summer recess by a month to finish debating the basic law and bring it to a vote.

The draft defines the powers of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. It limits the president to two consecutive five-year terms and makes the cabinet accountable to the legislature.

PLO officials said Arafat also was unhappy with clauses in the law which define succession to power should the president resign, die, or be impeached.

The draft says the council speaker would assume power for up to 60 days in case a sitting president left office and in that time elections would be held for a new president. (Reuters)

US grants PA \$46m., EU pledges \$23m.

News agencies

US Consul-General in Jerusalem Edward Abington and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat held a joint news conference yesterday to announce that the US is granting the PA \$46 million to develop water resources in Judea and Samaria.

The US is interested in improving the standard of living in Judea and Samaria, Abington said.

Meanwhile, the European Union pledged \$23m. yesterday to help businesses and improve public infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An EU Commission statement said \$19m. would go to upgrade roads, water systems, sewers, and maintenance equipment in the largest Palestinian towns.

The remaining \$4m. would go to encourage private businesses, especially by building links to European companies, the statement said.

"The EU is anxious to stimulate the economy and cope with the expectations of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who want better living conditions and feel frustrated at certain lacks of direct and tangible benefits from the peace process," the commission said.

The EU gave \$16.5m. for the same two projects last year, the statement said.

US 'pleased' by decision to ease closure

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE State Department said yesterday it is "pleased" both with the Israeli government's decision to ease the closure of the territories and the direct Arab-Israeli dialogue this week.

"We have long been concerned by the effects of the closure on the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters. "We hope that this announcement and the steps taken by Israel will help those who have suffered [there]."

Burns also said that Tuesday's Tel Aviv meeting between Prime

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Jordanian premier Abdul Karim Kabariti, and today's Cairo meeting, represent "the kind of process the US has had in mind since [Netanyahu's] victory in the Israeli elections, that both Israel and the Arabs should keep the door open to meetings of this kind."

Those meetings, as well as Israeli-Palestinian contacts involving Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold, are positive and the US hopes they spur progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Burns said.

Syrian, Lebanese presidents discuss peace process

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syrian

President Hafez Assad and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi yesterday discussed how to pressure Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to change what they termed his headline peace policies.

Assad's spokesman Joubran Kourieb said the talks focused on the "changes of the Israeli policy towards the peace process and efforts to establish a just peace in the region to be based on the land-for-peace principle."

"The talks dealt with ways of bolstering the Arab action to confront the anti-peace moves and back Arab demands for a just and comprehensive peace, which will return the occupied lands to their owners," Kourieb said.

He said Assad and Hrawi were joined later by Syrian Vice

President Abdel-Halim Khaddam, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hikmat Shihabi and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara.

A senior Syrian official said earlier that Syria was pleased with the unified Arab stand expressing commitment to the land-for-peace principle and urging Netanyahu to accept the basis on which the peace process was launched in 1991.

"The unified Arab stand challenges all those who thought that Arab solidarity was impossible and that disunity would go on for a long time," said the official.

"This position will certainly force Netanyahu, who bet on the Arab disunity to allow success for his anti-peace policies, to change his plans and accept the legitimate Arab demands," he added.

MIA

(Continued from Page 1)
between the two MIAs and Ron Arad.

Last week, Hizbullah deputy secretary-general Sheikh Naim Qassem, said previous attempts to arrange a swap had failed, because Israel insisted it obtain firm word on the fate of Arad, whose Phantom was brought down on October 17, 1986. The apparent change in policy could be a way to get things moving, hoping it will lead to further deals.

Israeli negotiators were hesitant to even confirm the latest reports, for fear the leaks would foil the exchanges.

"I think any revelations of negotiations before they bear fruit can harm them, particularly in this area of the world," said Uri Slonim, an attorney who has been involved with prisoner exchanges in the past. "Without confirming anything, let's wait and talk about it after it happens. You need to taste the pudding before commenting on it."

Caution was also expressed by MK Ori Orr (Labor), who was OC Northern Command when Fink and Alsheikh were captured when their convoy was ambushed on February 17, 1986.

"You have to be careful. These are just rumors," he told Army Radio.

Bnt US Ambassador Martin Indyk expressed how everything would work out. "I do know that the Germans have been working on this particular release for some time. I hope very much that they succeed. The resolution of the MIAs is an issue of great importance to the United States," he told Israel Radio.

Pedestrian hit by taxi

A Netanya man, 50, was seriously injured when he was struck by a taxi late last night while crossing a local street. He was taken to Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava. *Itm*



Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan (front right) and US Ambassador Martin Indyk (front left) meet yesterday to discuss the regional water shortage and regional cooperation on water. (IPPA)

STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

rescheduled morning flights to leave before 6 a.m. and some 30 afternoon flights departed after the strike ended at 4 p.m.

The representatives of eight organizations, including those representing pensioners and large families, also criticized the government plans yesterday.

Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, director of the National Council for the Child, said, "Whoever says there will be no new taxes is lying through his teeth. Slashing child allowances, raising public transportation prices, and imposing payment on doctor's visits definitely constitute taxes."

Settlers, Mordechai differ on Civil Guard for territories

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai met with settler leaders last night, and, according to the latter, promised to implement the decision to set up Civil Guard units in Judea and Samaria and help them coordinate with the IDF.

The members of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza also asked

the government to continue paving bypass roads, to cancel the previous government's decision to freeze construction in the territories, and to permit the sale of empty apartments in settlements.

Council spokesman Aharon Domb said Mordechai had committed himself to including Civil Guard members in IDF patrols.

"The minister promised to conduct an ongoing dialogue with the settlers," he said.

Defense Ministry spokesman Avi Benayahu said the atmosphere during Mordechai's meeting with the settlers was "positive," but denied Mordechai had made any commitments with respect to the Civil Guard or any of the settlers' other requests. *(Itm)*

Shas rejects Religious Ministry compromise

SHAS'S Council of Torah Sages yesterday rejected any compromise over the Religious Affairs Ministry, and demanded that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu fulfill his obligation and entrust the ministry to the party immediately.

Shas and the National Religious Party have agreed to share the ministry on a rotation basis, but have been at loggerheads over which will get it first.

Several proposals for a compromise were suggested to Netanyahu before he left for the US, including one by Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri that the ministry be entrusted to a figure identified with neither party,

such as Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, and that each party be given a deputy minister.

In response to the decision, MK Shlomo Benizri said that Shas had made concessions in the coalition negotiations. He added that Netanyahu had promised at least twice that Shas would be first in the rotation.

"It is unthinkable that just because the NRP is pressuring him, he will accept its dictate. The NRP received more than Shas in the coalition talks and, in any case, there is the prime minister's promise," he said. *(Itm)*

To mark the Shloshim of the passing of our dear
LILY TOPEROFF
we will meet at the graveside
at the Segula cemetery, Petach Tikva
on Sunday, July 28, 1996 at 5:45 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Large fire battled near Safed

Hundreds of dunams of the Meron Forest, near Safed, were totally destroyed last night, in a fire that spread quickly and threatened Moshav Meron and other communities.

Firefighters, aided by helicopters, attempted to put out the blaze, but were hampered by strong winds.

Curious drivers who stopped or slowed down to view the fire caused a number of minor road accidents. *Itm*

Deri aide may head Employment Service

Yehuda Avidan of Ashdod, an aide to Shas chairman MK Aryeh Deri and general manager of the party's *Yom Leyom* newspaper, is expected to be named director of the Employment Service.

The service is a division of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, headed by Shas's Eli Yishai.

Avidan has been a board member of Mishan and a member of the Histadrut executive in charge of special projects. He would say only that "there has been talk" about his filling the position. *Itm*

Two Palestinians murdered near Hebron

Nasser Masalruh, 25, and a relative, Hamdan Masalmech, both of Beit Ava, west of Hebron, were shot dead in their respective homes yesterday. Residents of the village said they were killed by six men. "Everyone in the village knows they were killed by the Palestinian Police for collaborating with Israel," one villager said.

Palestinian policemen in the village said they knew nothing about the reason for the murders, which were being investigated. *Itm*

LEVY

(Continued from Page 1)
We also want to hear from him," Bassioury said.

At the symposium, Erakat challenged Netanyahu to convene Israeli-Palestinian negotiating teams to discuss "reciprocal implementation" of the interim agreement. "We need to engage in negotiations and not waste precious time," he said.

He said he welcomes Netanyahu's call for "reciprocity," which involves curbing terrorism, but the Palestinian Authority wants to raise what he termed Israel's violation of no less than 33 provisions of the Oslo Accords. Erakat made special mention of settlements, saying "peace and settlements do not go together."

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אשרי חיינו

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Swiss likely to probe Holocaust-era assets

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

SWITZERLAND appears poised to commit its financial institutions and commercial agencies to unprecedented scrutiny in a search for Jewish Holocaust-era assets. A pending decree calls for a "critical legal and historical review" of the scope and fate of Jewish assets that were received in Switzerland - either for safekeeping, investment, or transfer to third parties - during the Nazi era.

The decree, which is contained in draft legislation, would cover banks, insurance agencies, lawyers, notaries, trustees, property administrators, and other "natural or legal entities or persons" likely to have received funds from Jews.

Although the decree would go beyond the terms of the agreement between the Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Restitution Organization, its focus differs. The bankers' agreement calls for a commission to arrange for an independent audit that will determine Jewish assets in Swiss banks. Although the agreement does not specify it, the commission is expected to distribute any unclaimed Jewish funds.

That commission, agreed upon in New York on May 2, has not yet announced a chairman or an auditor.

The investigation that would be authorized by the Swiss decree would identify assets belonging to Jews and those transferred to Switzerland between January 1933 and May 1945 by the German National Socialist Labor

Party, as well as by institutions and representatives of the Reich. "We intend to look at everything," said Christoph Bubb, head of legal affairs at the Swiss Embassy in Washington.

The decree, which envisions a five-year investigation, is expected to be approved by the Swiss legislature when it is introduced early this fall, Bubb said. It does not address how any Jewish assets uncovered by the investigation would be returned to heirs.

The investigation would be conducted by historians and legal and financial experts, who would be appointed by the Swiss parliament and who would have unrestricted access to files.

"Everybody is interested in getting this investigation started, but the legal formalities have to be maintained," Bubb said.

Because the law usually prohibits access to files, the experts would be obligated to preserve the privacy of the records.

The draft decree, which was passed July 1 by the Legal Committee of the Swiss National Council, is circulating for comment until August 9 among banks, insurance companies, the Swiss Jewish organizations and others who would be affected by the law. There may be some fine-tuning, but the decree is expected to retain its current shape. The draft already reflects the general view of how this matter should be tackled, Bubb said, adding, "In the public discussion there has been no opposition" to the draft.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani shakes hands with United Torah Judaism MK Moshe Gafni yesterday, as fellow MKs Samuel Halpern (center) and Meir Porush look on. The three met with the minister to air their views on Rehov Bar-Ilan. (Lease Harari)

Amit: Police may have violated regulations at Bar-Ilan protest

JERUSALEM police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit said yesterday it is possible that policemen deviated from regulations in their response to the demonstrations along Bar-Ilan Street last Saturday.

"I can't vouch for the behavior of each and every policeman. It's possible police did violate [regulations] and didn't withstand the pressure," he told the Knesset Interior Committee, pointing out that "it is possible to file a complaint in the [Justice Ministry's] Police Investigation Department against any policeman who broke the law."

However, Shai Horowitz, a representative of Manof, a group formed to increase awareness of Jewish values, told the committee there is no point in filing complaints against the police, as nearly all such cases are closed on the grounds there is no public interest in prosecution.

Amit rejected charges by haredim of wholesale police brutality and collective punish-

ment. He also accused Meretz activists of "raising the level of response in the haredi street by their presence."

He said Meretz's requests to ride convoys and parade along the street was one cause of the recent escalation in violent demonstrations. MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) also accused Meretz of causing "provocations."

The Meretz activists had not abided by his decision to allow only five vehicles at a time travel on the road, Amit charged. Amit said he had been very worried by the danger faced by three detectives who were discovered disguised as haredim and had to be extricated from an angry mob under a barrage of stones.

However, Amit said he had granted Meretz a license to demonstrate again this Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Elazar Sturm, who chaired the committee which recommended closing the road during prayer times, told the MKs that Rehov Bar-Ilan does not act as a major road during Shabbat and only 750 vehicles use it during prayer times. He called on both sides to avoid violence.

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz) told the committee the road should remain open.

"It's the main road to Ramot Eshkol. There's an attempt by the haredi public to close the road by terror. We're protecting the continuation of traffic and we're protecting the road," he said.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani met with United Torah Judaism MK's yesterday to discuss the problem. The MK's warned him that allowing the road to remain open this Shabbat could result in violence.

MK Moshe Gafni (UTJ) said he fears that a spontaneous demonstration by extremists in the area could lead to bloodshed.

Panel okays mandatory school payments

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset Education Committee yesterday unanimously approved the mandatory payments parents must make for the 1996-1997 school year.

It was decided that payments for studies and crafts materials will be mandatory only in kindergartens, not nursery schools.

The committee accepted a proposal by former Education Ministry director-general Shimshon Shoshani to gradually phase out the payments for crafts materials throughout the state school system by the 1997-1998 school year. One of the reasons for abolishing this payment is the lack of clear definition of the materials it actually includes.

The fee for crafts in kindergartens will be NIS 72 a year; in elementary schools, NIS 55; junior high, NIS 78; and high school, NIS 55.

Parents will have to pay NIS 27 personal accident insurance per child in all state schools. Payment for dental care will be mandatory only in areas where the local council provides the dental service. The comprehensive dental care through junior high will be NIS 52; the basic care, NIS 27.

A public council, including representatives of the local parents committees, the Education Ministry, the Health Ministry, and the local council will monitor the provision of the service.

Hanegbi seeks to liberalize kidney donations

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH Minister Tzahi Hanegbi last night asked the head of the national transplant coordination center, Prof. Ami Barzilai, to prepare within a month a proposal to allow live persons to donate a kidney to patients other than first-degree relatives.

This was recommended by the Supreme Helsinki Committee chaired by ministry director-general Dr. Meir Oren. The committee said such a practice should be allowed if there is proper supervision of such donations to prevent abuse.

There has been much pressure to allow people other than immediate relatives to donate a kidney or part of a lung or liver from their own bodies, due to the long waiting list for organs and the severe shortage of cadaver organs.

Regarding the possibility of compensation for the organs, there was no agreement among committee members and no decision was made.

The members include representatives of the Health Ministry, surgeons, medical ethicists, a sociologist, legal experts, and clergy.

HU Agriculture School looks to prevent extinction of land tortoises

JUDY SIEGEL

RESEARCH aimed at preventing the extinction of land tortoises has begun at the Hebrew University's Agriculture Faculty in Rehovot. Some 100 turtles have been collected and relocated to a special facility that will help determine ways of boosting their breeding and preventing diseases among them.

The world's population of land turtles is continuously declining due to poaching by collectors and pet lovers. Due to their popularity in Europe, the reptiles are being smuggled and their ability to breed reduced.

The tortoises have existed for over 200 million years, according to HU experts, who have joined international organizations in trying to save them. Ran Lapid, a research student in biological sciences, initiated the project. Over several years, he collected dozens of indigenous turtles in his backyard at home. As he raised them, he observed them scientifically and carried out research. Studying for his doctorate, he sought to institutionalize his research.

The tortoise reaches adulthood at the age of 11 to 14, and the female lays only a small number of eggs. Of these, only 50 percent survive.

The researchers hope to study the hormonal systems of the reptiles and speed up their adolescence, as well as increase the number of eggs laid and protect those hatched from being destroyed. Ultrasound scans, X-rays, and other techniques will be used by the researchers, who hope they will serve as a model for tortoise-preservation programs abroad.

Jerusalem residents force removal of obscene ad posters

BILL HUTMAN

AFTER dozens of angry residents contacted the Jerusalem Municipality yesterday to protest against advertising signs reading, "Who the fuck is Chacko?" the city ordered them removed.

A city spokesman said the municipality does not have any say in posting ads. While street advertisement boardings are the municipality's responsibility, responsibility for renting them out to advertisers is in the hands of a private contractor, the spokesman said. The spokesman said he did not even know what the sign, which first appeared around the capital late Tuesday night, was advertising.

The city's 106 hot line and the spokesman's office received dozens of phone calls protesting the use of the obscene word on the sign, he said. Full story, Page 5

Drive Carefully

NEW Guide To the Golan Heights

Patients in experiments should be compensated, doctors say

JUDY SIEGEL

PATIENTS who willingly submit to an experimental medical procedure in the hope of getting better should be compensated if the experiment causes them harm, according to Dr. David Frankl, a senior lecturer in the faculty of health sciences at Ben-Gurion University.

Speaking on the last day of the Second International Colloquium on Medicine, Ethics and Jewish Law, Frankl said that the Health Ministry's Supreme Helsinki Committee on Human Experimentation could make payment for damages a condition for allowing such clinical trials.

Prof. Shimon Glick, head of the medical faculty at the Ben-Gurion University Medical School, said at the colloquium at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital that until the beginning of the Eighties, a number of clinical trials forbidden in the US by the Food and Drug Administration or the National Institutes of Health because they were very risky were carried out in Israel, and some patients suffered as a result.

Since then, however, the local health authorities have set much stricter requirements, he said. Nevertheless, there are still no arrangements for compensation.

On the issue of transplants, Rabbi Moshe Farstein, head of Netanyahu's Rabbinical Court, said that people who want to donate one of their kidneys to someone other than a first-degree relative should be able to do so, on condition their motives are altruistic. If the would-be donor wants to give the organ only to make money, it would be forbidden by Jewish

law, he said. In a discussion on the terminally ill, Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Haim David Halevy said that dying patients must have their pain relieved and their emotional distress addressed, unlike in some countries, where they are regarded as a nuisance.

Halevy reiterated the halachic position that while doctors may not disconnect dying patients from life-saving equipment, they may decide not to connect them if it would mean prolonging their pain and suffering without improving their chances for long-term survival.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Badash given 15 days to justify Gefen ban
The High Court of Justice yesterday gave Omer Mayor MK Pini Badash (Likud) 15 days to justify his refusal to let Aviv Gefen give a concert there this summer. The order, issued in response to a petition filed on Tuesday by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, also requires Badash to justify his refusal to let Gefen's supporters post a satirical poem against Badash on municipal bulletin boards. Evelyn Gordon

Kahalani: 27 arrested in car-smuggling ring
Police recently arrested 27 suspects allegedly involved in smuggling cars from Israel into Gaza, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday.

Responding to a motion to the agenda submitted by MK Haim Dayan (Tsomet), Kahalani said the smugglers included Jewish car owners, various middlemen, and "clients" in Gaza. According to Kahalani, Jewish drivers would drive the cars into Gaza, identifying themselves at checkpoints with the car's original papers. These transfers apparently were not related to planned terror activities, he said, though it is clear such cars could later be used in terror attacks or to smuggle weapons into Israel.

During the first half of the year, 16,631 cars were reported stolen, Kahalani said. Jerusalem Post Staff

Rapists sentenced to five years
The Haifa District Court yesterday sentenced Alexei Kochmanek, 20, Dmitri Igodlin, 23, Emil Haimov, 23, and a 17-year-old youth to five years' imprisonment for rape. They gang-raped a 15-year-old girl in October 1994 at the Haifa beach. Itm

Bassem Eid leaving B'tselem
Bassem Eid, B'tselem's senior fieldworker, will be leaving the organization at the end of the month to focus his attention on human rights violations by the Palestinian Authority. B'tselem deals primarily with Israeli violations of human rights in the territories. Eid, who has been with B'tselem for seven years, said he will work independently to document rights violations by the PA and defend the rights of Palestinians living in the autonomous areas. Evelyn Gordon

Knesset spokeswoman left speechless
A Likud spokeswoman bit off more than she could chew in the MKs' cafeteria yesterday and was left speechless. Tova Vagutza, the party's spokeswoman on social and economic issues, found what she thought was a black hair in her Chinese vegetables. It was not. It was a leg still attached to a large cockroach. Vagutza let out a yell and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, sitting at a nearby table, agreed to make time among his more pressing duties to discuss the public health hazards facing the country's leaders. Liat Collins

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BRIEF

FIRST BOOK

Three capitals bid to get Irish talks working

SHUTTLE diplomacy replaced name-calling yesterday as politicians tried to revive Northern Ireland's peace process following widespread rioting and a vehicle bomb last week.

The IRA-allied Sinn Fein party, condemned by the Irish government after the Irish Republican Army ended its cease-fire by bombing London Feb. 9, meet government officials in Dublin.

In London, John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, Sinn Fein's larger rival for Catholic votes, was to meet Prime Minister John Major yesterday evening.

In Belfast, leaders of pro-British Protestant parties continued their own consultations with former US Sen. George Mitchell, chairman of the talks begun June 10 that have yet to get anywhere.

Some Protestants still think Mitchell is unsuitable as chairman because, they contend, he wants to bring IRA supporters to the table.

Mitchell warned in a statement that "an end to the talks could condemn the people of Northern Ireland to a renewal of widespread sectarian violence."

In Strasbourg, Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring told the European Parliament he wanted to see a new beginning to Anglo-Irish efforts to resolve a 27-year conflict which killed 3,200 people.

"A solution must be found to the issue of contentious parades

News agencies

BELFAST

which served to provoke the recent unrest," he said.

"Violence may be an outlet for frustration but it can only worsen an already bad situation and will not solve the problems which lie at its root."

The Irish government has accused Britain of bowing to mob rule by Protestants by allowing the march through a Catholic area, trampling over their civil rights.

The most important test comes today in London when the two governments meet in emergency session - seeking to repair Anglo-Irish relations in their poorest shape since the IRA prison hunger strike of 1981.

In Londonderry, the province's second-largest and predominantly Catholic town 110 km northwest of Belfast that was wracked by weekend rioting, Catholic politicians planned yesterday to censure or expel the Protestant mayor.

Hume's party has a working majority on Derry City Council but, trying to demonstrate power-sharing in this Protestant-majority province, each year nominates a Protestant mayor.

The current mayor, Richard Dallas, is a member of the Orange Order fraternal group and helped block the city's main bridge dur-

ing last week's violent confrontation between police and Protestants.

Police on July 7 had tried to block the annual Orange march through a Catholic enclave in a predominantly Protestant town, Portadown. After four days of confrontations with Protestants the police gave in, and four more nights of rioting erupted in Catholic areas.

The Orange marches commemorate Protestant traditions and historic victories over Catholics.

Baroness Denton, the British minister responsible for attracting foreign investment to Northern Ireland, says one major company has already withdrawn from negotiations because of the mayhem. "You can understand their decision," she said.

Overnight, the IRA meted out so-called "punishment" beatings to accused criminal opponents in its poor Catholic power bases.

In Newry, 50 km south of Belfast, men wielding nail-spiked clubs attacked a 19-year-old who suffered a broken leg and knee, and multiple cuts. In the Markets, a Catholic neighborhood in south-central Belfast, another man had his arm broken by two masked men swinging iron bars.

No group has claimed responsibility for Sunday's vehicle bomb that wrecked a hotel in Enniskillen, 130 km southwest of Belfast.



Russian monarchists attend a commemoration service yesterday for Czar Nikolay Romanov II, whom the monarchists have asked the Orthodox Church to saint. (Reuters)

NATO rejects Bosnian Serb threats

NATO's top leadership warned the Bosnian Serbs yesterday against retaliating for any attempt by the NATO-led peace force to arrest suspected war criminals.

The NATO-led force "will not tolerate attacks on its personnel or interference with the performance of their duties," Secretary-General Javier Solana. "It will not be intimidated or deterred from its mission."

The Bosnia Serbs recently warned they would retaliate against any attempt by the force to arrest Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who has been indicted on war crimes charges.

Adm. Leighton Smith, commander of the force, said Bosnian Serb leaders had already distanced themselves from the threats.

"The leadership in the Bosnian Serb government has repudiated those threats," Smith said. "They don't like them any more than I do."

US envoy Richard Holbrooke, architect of the Dayton peace accord for Bosnia, held four hours of talks with President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday and described them as "inconclusive."

He said after the meeting with the man widely regarded as the Bosnian Serbs' main sponsor during the war that he would return to Belgrade for further talks later in the week.

"I cannot tell you we made any progress

News agencies

BRUSSELS

today, and I will not characterize the talks except to say they were inconclusive," he told reporters. "Confidential negotiations require confidentiality."

Holbrooke said he would go to the Croatian capital Zagreb for talks with President Franjo Tudjman and consult Washington before resuming negotiations in Belgrade this afternoon. He said he would return to Washington tomorrow.

Holbrooke declined to give any details of their main topic of discussion - the future of Karadzic.

But he reiterated the Western belief that the Bosnian Serbs were defying the Dayton peace accord. "In our view they are in non-compliance with most of the political parts of the Dayton agreements," he said.

Holbrooke said earlier it was Milosevic's responsibility to honour his commitments under the Dayton accord to remove Karadzic from power.

Milosevic signed the Dayton documents on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs and the West believes that makes him accountable for their failure to comply with the agreement.

Dayton forbids any individual indicted for

war crimes, such as Karadzic, from holding public office or participating in Bosnian elections scheduled for September 14.

If Milosevic continues to resist the pressure, NATO said it might still be prepared to consider snatching Karadzic - an option it had avoided because of the risk of Western casualties.

"All options are open...The road between The Hague and Pale is getting shorter, shorter and shorter," NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana told reporters in Brussels.

"In the last few days there has been enormous diplomatic activity...We are putting all the pressure possible on the parties to comply with Dayton."

Washington recalled Holbrooke to international diplomacy from his job as a Wall Street investment banker to try to rejuvenate efforts to force Karadzic from power and political influence in Bosnia.

Diplomats regard Holbrooke as one of the few mediators capable of negotiating and bullying the rival Bosnian powers into line with the Dayton agreement.

Milosevic has so far appeared unwilling to risk the domestic political consequences of forcing Karadzic, seen by many of his people as a Serb hero and patriot, from office and into the jurisdiction of the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

War criminal Paul Touvier dies

PARIS (AP) - Former militia chief Paul Touvier, the only Frenchman convicted of crimes against humanity committed during World War II, died yesterday in prison, court officials said. He was 81.

Touvier, convicted in April 1994 of ordering the deaths of seven Jews, died in a hospital at Fresnes Prison south of Paris after suffering from prostate cancer. An autopsy was planned.

Twice his family asked he be pardoned due to failing health, but were rejected.

As head of the Lyon-area militia for the Vichy regime during the war, Touvier ordered the dawn executions by firing squad in reprisal for the murder of Vichy propaganda chief Philippe Henriot by the Resistance.

Prosecution lawyers portrayed Touvier during his five-week trial as seething with revenge on the eve of his arrest and execution on June 29, 1944 in Rillieux-la-Pape, outside Lyon.

Touvier claimed that he was acting under German orders and that he actually saved 93 Jews by sacrificing seven, but that was never proven. Touvier, stone-faced during his trial, never expressed remorse about the killings.

Touvier was a key aide during World War II to Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyon," tracking Jews and Resistance fighters and frequently confiscating their possessions.

"Justice was done," said Nazi hunter and lawyer Serge Klarsfeld. Referring to Touvier and Barbie, who also died behind bars, "from the moment they were in prison because of a just decision, their fate was of no further importance to us."

Though Touvier's conviction satisfied many Jewish groups, he is widely regarded by historians as having played a secondary role in the arrest and deportations of Jews during World War II.

His superiors, including former Budget Minister Maurice Papon and Rene Bousquet, Vichy's national police chief during the war, managed to avoid trial.

While charges are still pending against Papon, now 85, Bousquet was assassinated in 1994 on the eve of his trial by a crazed publicity seeker.

In a 1994 television interview, the late President Francois Mitterrand admitted that he enjoyed a close personal friendship with Bousquet until the mid-1980s and that he had intervened to delay legal proceedings against him.

Some 75,000 Jews, including 12,000 children, were deported from France to Nazi death camps during the war. Only 2,500 returned.

Twice convicted in absentia for treason, Touvier was pardoned by Premier Georges Pompidou in 1971 at the behest of leading Roman Catholic Church officials.

"The time has come to throw a veil over the period when the French were engaged in hatred, civil strife and even murder," Pompidou said.

But Resistance groups and Jewish survivors, infuriated by the pardon, came forward with evidence, to bring new charges and Touvier went back into hiding.

He remained a fugitive, moving from convent to monastery under assumed names with his wife and two children, living off handouts from private individuals until he was arrested at a Roman Catholic priory in Nice 1989.

An investigation conducted at the request of the Church revealed that many of the clergymen - at least 50 - who came to Touvier's aid over the years were not aware of his wartime activities.

He is survived by his wife Monique and his children Chantal and Pierre.

Hotel blaze kills 29 in China

SHENZHEN (Reuters) - Scores of hotel guests fled down knotted bedsheets to a hotel blaze that burned 29 people to death and injured 13 in this southern Chinese boom town early yesterday.

Reports by local state media said 18 men and 11 women were killed in the conflagration in the nine-storey block. Local reporters said the victims were live-in restaurant employees.

A reporter for Hong Kong's *New Evening Post* said over 100 people were hurt in the conflagration of people fleeing the flames.

The blaze flared up at 2.00 a.m. in the Fei Fei hot-pot restaurant on the second floor of the Duan Xi Hotel building in Shenzhen, a town adjacent to the British colony of Hong Kong.

MOSCOW (Reuters) - President Boris Yeltsin named experienced army general Igor Rodionov as Russia's defense minister yesterday in a victory for security tsar Alexander Lebed, who had lobbied hard for him.

Naming Rodionov, head of the general staff's prestigious academy, ended a month of uncertainty after Yeltsin fired the hawkish and unpopular Pavel Grachev on June 15 to try to ensure re-election.

The 59-year-old colonel-general immediately pledged to try to resolve the conflicts in Chechnya and other hotspots, and promised to make long-awaited reforms in the armed forces.

"We must sort out the situation in Chechnya, Tajikistan and Bosnia in order to take the necessary decisions there," said Rodionov, quoted by Itar-Tass news agency.

"I will try to define the basic tasks

and declare honestly that a Russian general's honour is selfless service of the Motherland, of the people."

Rodionov is respected, but his career was clouded by his command of troops who used shovels to break up a peaceful protest in the Georgian capital Tbilisi in 1989, killing about 20 people.

He was then regarded as a communist hawk and removed from his post because of the killings, although many politicians now suggest much of the blame should have been placed elsewhere.

His views now are unclear but politicians from rival camps welcomed his appointment. Lebed said it was good for Russia.

"A professional of a high standard, an elite general who combines practical and theoretical skills...has been appointed defense minister," Lebed said. "I think the president has acted very

wisely and all Russia will gain from this appointment."

Lebed proposed Rodionov for the post after he himself was lured into the Kremlin by Yeltsin as the president tried to win extra votes for the second round of Russia's presidential election, which he won on July 3.

Lebed's position in the Kremlin appeared to be strengthened by the appointment, although some friction could be caused because he holds a lower rank as a lieutenant-general. The choice of anyone else would have been a resounding and public slap in the face by Yeltsin.

"Rodionov is a protégé of General Lebed and this increases Lebed's weight to some extent, although you still cannot say that he fully controls the power system," said Alexander Kononov, an independent military expert.

Japan's E. coli epidemic spreads

TOKYO (AP) - In the Japanese city of Sakai, where thousands of schoolchildren have been stricken with a dangerous form of food poisoning, things are getting worse, not better.

"We seem to be getting further from a solution," said Sakai

mayor Hideo Hataya yesterday as the number of victims of the E. coli O157:H7 bacteria rose to 5,262.

Most have bloody diarrhea and flu-like symptoms, but at least one young girl is unconscious, and more than a dozen are suffering serious kidney damage.

Sakai, in western Japan, is the most recent city hit by a nationwide epidemic of E. coli infections, apparently spread through school lunches.

In all, more than 6,000 people have gotten sick.

Health and Welfare Ministry official Yasuyuki Osada said there have been more E. coli infections among Japanese children in the past three weeks than there are food poisonings nationwide in an average year.

Although no deaths have been reported in Sakai, four people - three children and an 84-year-old woman - from other parts of Japan have died.

Many victims, including at least six infants, have developed a complication that attacks the kidneys as the bacteria attaches to the intestinal lining and secretes its poison.

As parents brought about 500 children to overflowing hospitals and clinics in Sakai yesterday, a special task force established in the city by the central government banned the use of many school swimming pools and prepared to distribute pamphlets on hygiene throughout the city.

Authorities also decided to close schools for the full week.

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Mandela feels 'eternity' near

PRETORIA (Reuters) - President Nelson Mandela, mortally weighing on the eve of his 78th birthday, returned yesterday from a triumphal visit to Britain and France saying South Africa would reap increased trade and investment.

"It's always a sense of joy of course to have a birthday, even if you are coming nearer to sleeping for eternity," a tired-looking Mandela told a news conference on arrival in Pretoria.

Mandela, whose status as an international human rights icon was underlined by the adulation he received in Britain and France, will mark his birthday on today by hosting a party for 2,000 disabled children.

He said local newspaper reports that business leaders he met during the trip had been sceptical of South Africa as a haven for investment were off the mark.

"I don't know where (the newspapers) get their information

because I am the person who spoke to business in both countries and their response is a positive one."

"Not one of them asked me about the rate of crime or our relations with the trade unions, except that I volunteered that information," he said.

South Africa's rampant crime and Communist-aligned labour movement have frequently been cited as potential obstacles to the foreign investment the country desperately needs to fuel growth and create jobs.

Foreign investors have also expressed concern at the country's stability after Mandela leaves office, which he is scheduled to do when his current term expires in 1999.

Mandela has been at pains to persuade the business community that he is not the only capable leader in the country and that his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, would make a more than adequate successor.

'Primary Colors' author revealed: Joe Klein

WASHINGTON (AP) - Handwriting analysis suggests *Newsweek* columnist Joe Klein is the author, Anonymous, of *Primary Colors*, the best-selling satire on the 1992 Clinton campaign, according to yesterday's *Washington Post*.

The *Post* said it obtained a copy of a manuscript of the novel with handwritten changes on several pages. The paper said it also got copies of Klein's handwriting and hired a handwriting analyst to compare them.

"The two samples of handwriting are absolutely consistent throughout," concluded Maureen Casey Owens, former chief document examiner for the Chicago Police Crime Laboratory and past president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Klein before denied being the author, most notably after *New York* magazine published an article by a Vassar professor, Donald Foster, who used a computer analysis to conclude that Klein wrote the book.

02-241282

You want a Pepsi?! In Coke City, don't even ask

IN Atlanta, where four out of five dentists recommend their patients rinse with Coca-Cola, they have a different word for parish: Pepsi dealer.

In the home of its corporate headquarters, in the downtown section dubbed the Olympic ring, Coke was most definitely it. Trucks, shlepped empty Coke machines across town for refills. US Army soldiers in fatigues slugged down Diet Cokes. Tourists, workers, residents - a Coke was on everyone's sweaty lips.



Coke wars? The fight is over in Atlanta, where the red-and-white banner of Coca-Cola flies high while the folks over at Pepsi lie low.

"I just don't have any comment," sniffed Barry Hayes, general manager of Buffalo Rock Bottling, a Pepsi distributor in suburban Newnan. "The less said, the better."

At least Hayes was speaking. At the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Gainesville, the phone rang unanswered.

The odds of finding a cold (or a lukewarm, or a hot) Pepsi in Olympic Atlanta were akin to discovering the Holy Grail inside the Georgia Dome.

"A Pepsi? Your chances are

very, very slim," said Michael Renwick, 23, who was serving cold Cokes Tuesday at Sports World '96. "You'll be looking a long, long time."

Has any representative of the Pepsi generation stopped by, asking for alternative refreshment?

"You're the first," Renwick replied. The scene was repeated at Bar-B-Dog, and Native Sun's Oasis, and assorted other stops in the shadow of the Coca-Cola skyscraper.

Coke, the world's largest beverage company and Atlanta's corporate king, doled out more than \$40 million to become the official Olympic beverage.

Coke is spending a reported \$250m. worldwide in Olympic advertising. And it seems to be working - a recent study indicated the number of consumers identifying Coke as the Olympic soft-drink sponsor had doubled since the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

At Pepsi's Atlanta office, there were initial signs that the prevalence of red and white hadn't left them feeling blue. "Have a Pepsi day!" announced the voice mail of Charlene Thompson. She later referred calls to another executive, who didn't call back.

Out getting a soda, no doubt. (AP)

Jerusalem in uproar over obscene ad campaign

RACHEL MISKIN

ADVERTISEMENTS blaring the message "Who the fuck is Chacko?" sprang up in the early hours of yesterday morning all over Jerusalem, amusing some and incensing many.

Chacko is the name of a new fast-food restaurant downtown on Rehov Hasoreg. The Jerusalem municipality, flooded with complaints, forced the advertising agency handling the campaign to remove the signs immediately.

The city spokesman's office stated that the municipality does not, as a rule, approve every billboard or poster that goes up in the city, but does reserve the right to remove any advertisement it deems offensive or inappropriate.

Meor Sigawi, president of Vieder Sigawi, the advertising agency responsible for the signs, professes only pure motives. "What we intended to say was 'Who the hell is Chacko?'"

"I am baffled by the uproar. The word is broadcast regularly on the radio and on television. The ad is a takeoff on a popular song by Gumpy, 'Who the fuck is Alice?'"

"We knew it was a little crass in English, but in Israel it's a common turn of phrase. It's a word that can be interpreted many ways."

English-speakers in Jerusalem apparently interpret it only one way. David Clayman, Israel director of the American Jewish Congress, expressed outrage and disgust at the signs.

"A new depth of vulgarity has been reached in a society with a long, painful record of tastelessness," he says.

"It is not simply a matter of extreme ultra-Orthodox objection. This is offensive to everyone. If the signs are not removed within 24 hours, I will personally take them down and start proceedings for a court case."

Many naive Israelis did not even understand the ad, but those who did were largely indifferent to it.

"It's cute and funny and targets a young audience," said Jerusalemite Sharon Maggid.

Yehiel Sabag echoed this sentiment. "It's simply another ad. It doesn't bother me personally at all," he said.

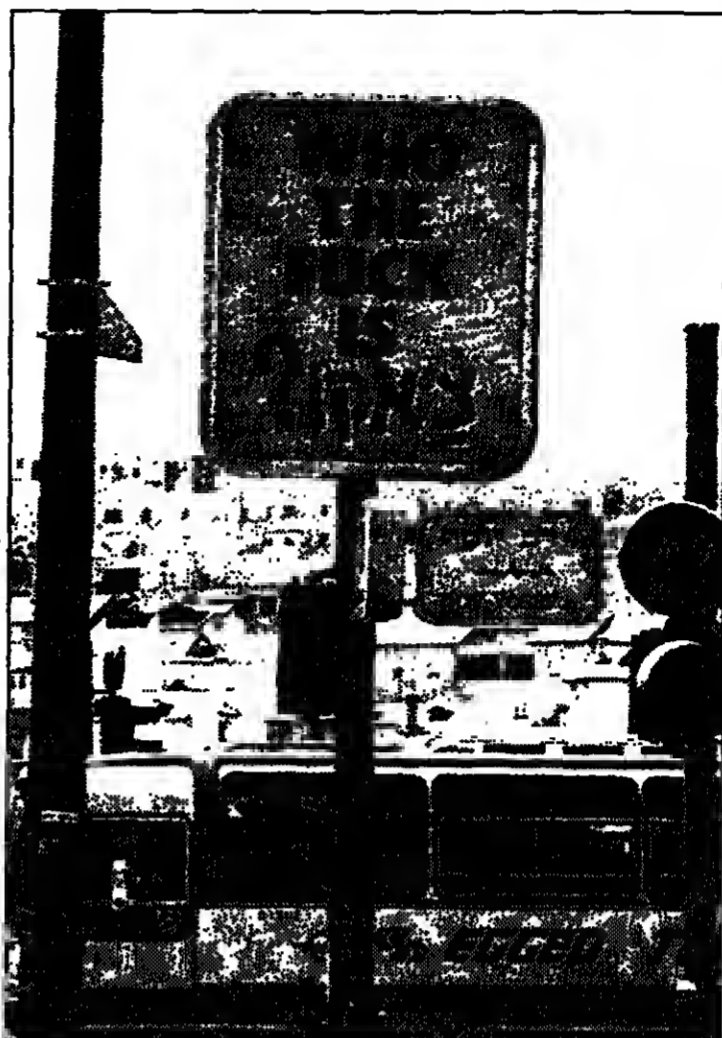
However, kiosk proprietor Haim Mizrahi was disgusted. "Lately there has been a moral decline in Israeli society. This is just another example of how low we've sunk," he said.

Expatriate Americans and tourists were, for the most part, shocked. Ma'aleh Adumim resident Mindy Goldstein fumed. "Is this the message they want to give to tourists? What has Jerusalem come to? Don't they understand that this is extremely offensive?"

American tourist Jordan Singer was "shocked this would appear in any city, much less Jerusalem, the holy city."

Jerusalemite Ruth Frank expressed disgust at the ad agency. "I don't believe in censorship, but a person has to understand what's appropriate. Jerusalem is a holy city for most of the world. How can anybody do that? The ad agency should lose its license."

Interestingly, European tourists were not offended, but rather



Dozens of these ads, for a kosher restaurant, suddenly appeared in Jerusalem Tuesday night. Within hours, the municipality ordered them removed. (Isaac Harari)

"I'm not at all offended by it, but I guess some people would be."

"They shouldn't be taken down, though. Censorship is never good for democracy. I've seen much more risqué ads in Sweden."

"I think there are two elements at work here," says Charles Levine, president of Charles Levine Communications. "The first is that there is a lower common denominator in Israeli culture when it comes to public displays of vulgarity than there is in the West."

"The limits of good taste in art and culture can be flexible, but we're talking about the grassroots level of street ads. Using vulgarity is not within the acceptable realm."

"The second issue is that Jerusalem should remain an exception. It has a special character, an extra dimension, and it is doubly wrong to have such unseemly displays here."

Sigawi claims that the furor is both unfounded and inexplicable, that those who object are a sanctimonious minority. "Hebrew speakers do not find the campaign offensive. It appeals to the general public. We didn't mean to be disrespectful or insulting to anyone."

Chacko owner Avi Rosenboim expressed regret for the entire affair. "We put a lot of thought into this campaign and it obviously hasn't fulfilled our expectations. We are changing the ads and are paying dearly for this blunder."

"This is a kosher restaurant and we did not want to alienate anybody. We deliberately did not place ads in religious neighborhoods for fear of offending people. We simply wanted to arouse curiosity for the restaurant."

Scents and sensibility

FRAGRANCE-free deodorants are not a novelty. Several cosmetics companies produce them for people who want a product which will eliminate perspiration odor without substituting some other smell in its stead.

But since producers of toiletries are always looking for a new gimmick, the current trend is toward alcohol-free fragrances.

The alcohol content often boosts the strength of the perfume, and gives it greater staying power.

Thus it comes as no surprise that Deodor's roll-on deodorant, which is advertised as "pleasantly perfumed," exudes almost nothing of the aroma of its cocktail of essential oils derived from pine, rosewood, orange mint, lavender and rosemary. However, if the product fulfills its main purpose, some customers will not mind forgoing out NIS 83 for a 30ml. canister.

Musk Oil's new anti-perspirant deodorant, which is also free of alcohol, does have an appeal of sorts to the olfactory senses, although to be truthful, it smells more like high-quality furniture polish than a beany product. Price-wise, it's certainly a good buy at NIS 21.90 for a 50ml. bottle.

While fragrance-free deodorants and body lotions may be acceptable, one cannot be quite as toler-

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

ant with regard to Issey Miyake's L'ean D'Issey Sun Mist retailing at NIS 198 for a 100ml. bottle.

Most of us learn at an early age that you can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time - but never all of the people all of the time. This lesson has apparently escaped Miyake, whose signature fragrance is being produced without alcohol.

Possessed of the lightest, delicate bouquet in its original composition, L'ean D'Issey in its non-alcoholic state is now so subtle that it evaporates almost instantly. For those who don't want anything to intrude on their own natural scent, yet feel compelled for snob value or political correctness, to wear an expensive perfume L'ean D'Issey fits the bill.

While Sun Mist does not have durability, the refresher tissues sold under the same label definitely do, and better still, have a self-adhesive flap on the purse-size package to keep the tissues fresh and moist after the package has been opened.

For those who couldn't care less whether or not there is alcohol in the formula of their perfume, but who nonetheless want to borrow from nature's bounty to enhance

their olfactory ambience, Fleur d'eau, the most recent of the Rochas concoctions, is delightfully romantic and not the least bit heavy. A pleasing blend of fruit and flower essences tempered with amber, musk and sandalwood, it is available at NIS 149 for a 50ml. bottle and NIS 215 for a 100ml. bottle. The deodorant in the same series is priced at NIS 129 for a 100ml. bottle.

Samba Natural, produced by The Perfumer's Workshop Paris, is evocative of roselop citrus groves, but the grapefruit aroma does not quite vanquish the exotic Indian spices which hover beneath the top notes. A little too exuberant for day wear in a hot climate, Samba Natural, with its hint of mystique, does better after nightfall when the weather is cooler. The cost for a 50ml. spray bottle is NIS 149, going up to NIS 189 for 100ml.

The Best of Cheignon, which is marketed as a fragrance for men, is sufficiently discreet to serve as a unisex item of toiletry. What may make it more distinctively male is its freshness. Men's perfumes in general have a fresher, more vibrant scent than those created for women, and, curiously, are less costly. The Best of Cheignon eau de toilette comes in 30, 50 and 100ml. bottles selling at NIS 69, NIS 99 and NIS 119 respectively.

Magnetic medical wonder makes its debut

IF you are a member of Kupat Holim Meuhedet, you may have received a letter recently introducing you to the health food's imminent technological transformation. The current system of stickers required for doctor's visits and lab tests is soon to be replaced by that of the magnetic card.

Aside from the side benefit of the card's fitting nicely into one's wallet - among other magnetic money substitutes (e.g. Visa and Telecard), its real purpose - according to the above letter - is to enable "the attending physician to study the relevant medical history of the patient, his sensitivity to certain drugs, previous professional diagnoses, etc. [as well as enable members] automatically to receive lab test results and to be updated regarding their medication."

Supposedly, all doctors working with Meuhedet will eventually be equipped with computer terminals hooked into a shared network, as will pharmacies, labs, and any other body providing service to the health food. Each member will have his own personal card, to guard confidentiality.

This system is initially being put into effect in Jerusalem. According to Meuhedet media adviser Tal Rabiosa, this is the city with the highest concentration of Meuhedet members. The gradual shift over to the new system will take a while, and slight glitches during the interim period are to be expected.

S.O., a long-time Meuhedet member, is disturbed by the fact that the health fund is charging a fee for the purchase of the magnetic medical wonder. "If we members have no choice but to switch systems, why must we be forced to pay for it?"

He also questions the legality of the charge

CAVEAT EMPTORI!
RUTHIE BLUM

(NIS 10 per member, but no more than NIS 30 per family; and in the event of loss, another NIS 10 for replacement) due to a clause in the new health bill passed a year ago.

Rabiosa responds: "There is no legal impediment in charging a one-time payment for the card. Its introduction was reported both to the Ministry of Health and to the Treasury, and no prohibition was imposed by them."

The Ministry of Health says otherwise. According to a ministry assistant spokeswoman, "Kupat Holim Meuhedet has received repeated warnings from us on this subject. The health bill specifically forbids the health funds from charging for any service which was not in effect by January 1, 1994, as well as from placing conditions upon medical treatment."

When asked if the ministry, then, recommends that Meuhedet members refuse to pay for the card, the spokeswoman was slightly irritated. "I'm not saying what we recommend. I'm just stating the facts," she said.

One wonders whether this bodes well for future assurance from the ministry in upholding the law. Calling the main office of the health fund in Jerusalem as a Meuhedet member doubtful about the new system - particularly since no doctor I've seen recently has a computer in his office - I was told that I should "just pay for it now, anyway, since it takes time for the whole operation to get under way."

"Why not wait until it is actually functioning before buying the card?" I wanted to know.

And then "What happens if I don't pay for it at all? Will I be denied medical treatment?"

"Of course not!" was the reply. "If you don't pay now, the money will be taken from you at a later date either from your regular bank payments or however else you pay for our services."

Those of you who wish to stand on principle regarding this violation of the law should ignore the health fund's solicitations (some of which now have an actual card enclosed), and take note of whether a fee for this service has been added to your regular payments. And then complain to the Ministry of Health.

Others, for whom NIS 10 seems a small amount to pay to have easier access to and less bureaucracy involved in medical treatment, might wish to go ahead and buy the card. But you may want to wait until your own doctors have phased out the sticker system in their own clinics and until the offices of the health fund cease requiring the membership booklet before doing so.

One further crucial point: Always read any mail sent to you by your health fund. If your Hebrew is weak, get someone to translate.

Additional services, which cost extra, are often provided by default (for example, "Meuhedet Adif" and "Meuhedet Zahav"). This means that if you do not wish to have them added to your basic health plan, you must actively cancel them.

Only new members are given a chance to choose from the beginning. As dubious a practice as this may be, written warnings and reminders are mailed in advance.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

BARGAIN BASEMENT

- OFFERS**
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- 3 WICKER CHAIRS** - and table, NIS 150. couch, NIS 45. 02-870552.
- ANSWERING MACHINE** - Excelsior brand, NIS 85; women's clothes, size S and M. NIS 15 each piece. 02-6222945. NS.
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- HIGH CHAIR** - NIS 50; toys and clothes for babies and children. NIS 3-80; Flia shoes, white, size 40. NIS 150. 02-812366.
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- CAMERA** - Vivitar AF255 DB, date-print, auto focus, unused, NIS 150. 02-9931682. NS.
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The debris of failure

IN the debris of the riots in Northern Ireland may be found charred chunks of British government policy. In comments made by Prime Minister John Major in the aftermath of the week's disaster, he said there had been mistakes on both sides of the sectarian divide which led to the rioting, and proceeded to list some of them. In this attempted even-handedness, the only thing missing was the slightest hint of any blame for his own government, his humbling Northern Ireland minister, or the province's dithering police chief. It was an omission that bodes ill for any hope London may have learned something from the miserable events.

"There are no immediately obvious answers," said Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland minister in the House of Commons. An immediate question should be posed about Mayhew's continuing in the job. A promising period of peace and new talks in the province has been allowed to sink into an abyss of frustration, mistrust and finally, hatred and violence. A week of fierce riots in Belfast, Derry and other towns left two dead and culminated in the bombing of an Eniskillen hotel on Sunday which injured 17 people. Denied by the IRA, the first bombing in the province for two years remains an ominous mystery.

The British and Northern Ireland authorities can hardly have been taken by surprise by the traditional annual Uoionist marching season. While many Northern loyalists merely wish to exercise their right of lawful assembly and celebrate their cultural traditions, there are sizeable elements of the Orange Order who yearly seek to turn the colorful marches into triumphalist parades through staunchly nationalist areas - just as there are similar groups on the other side when the nationalists get their turn to march in the annual commemorations of the 1916 Irish Easter Rising.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) is well aware of this and by now the yearly planning of routes and negotiations with community leaders should be a matter of mere routine haggling. Had this been done properly, the controversial Portadown 'march' could have skirted the Catholic nationalist neighborhood and passed by in 10 to 15 minutes. Even in divided Northern Ireland there is a certain give and take, an ability to tolerate some inevitable heckling across the lines on such occasions. Nonetheless, having made a firm decision to deny the Orange marchers access to the nationalist neighborhood for five days, RUC police chief Sir Hugh Annesley suddenly caved in. By this time the atmosphere and media coverage resembled that in an American southern state if a white sheriff caved into Ku Klux Klan demands to march through a militant black neighborhood. And the result was the same - to the surprise of no one it seems but Messrs Major and Mayhew.

The British government has taken a well-deserved scolding from Dublin and opposition parties in its own parliament, as well as from most of the British media, but seems determined to continue being as obtuse as ever on the Irish question. Parliamentarian Marjorie Mowlam, the opposition spokesperson on Northern Ireland, blamed Mayhew's "own failure to act, as we and many others have been urging for many months, in a pro-active way to help resolve disputes and contentious parades, which makes him partly responsible for the failure to reach a local agreement." As the tattered all-party talks reassembled this week, Mayhew's main concern appeared to be "rebutting very firmly the quite unjustified and unwarranted criticism that has been made of the government and the police."

Britain has spent years trying to convince Northern Ireland's sizeable nationalist minority that the once rabidly pro-Unionist RUC has been thoroughly overhauled and is an impartial police force. Perhaps some time now would be better spent explaining why the RUC's credibility with Catholics is at its lowest for 20 years. Nor has the British government dispelled the feeling of partiality that surrounds its own relations with Ulster's Uoionists. Major has, a majority of one in parliament, and anyone who doubts his frequent reliance on the Unionist politicians to scrape through votes is politically naive. The government's loag haggling over allowing the republican Sinn Fein to join all-party talks unless the IRA decommissioned arms was strongly criticized by the Mitchell commission. Britain's failure to take advantage of the 18-month IRA and Unionist militias' cease-fire left the government with nothing but outrage - quite justified, but not very productive - when the IRA returned to bombing.

Yet every criticism of the government from whatever quarter is dismissed at once as "unhelpful" or "unjustified." The most recent Survey of Current Affairs published by the British Foreign Office contains a speech by the foreign secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, (under the heading "Britain and Palestine") to an Aid for Palestinians gathering. While indeed deploring "ghastly terrorist attacks" against Israel, he added: "But balance is needed. Peace can flourish only in a climate of confidence. Prolonged and stringeot measures which go beyond what is necessary to prevent terrorism damage confidence, not help build it. Resentment will increase and breed oew georatioos who will choose violence rather than peace. That is not what we want for the children of Palestine." Perhaps Rifkind should send a copy of his speech (meoed to read "children of Ireland") to a point nearer home - to the office of the minister for Northern Ireland.



Spoken like a Jew!

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

TO the writers of this column who stood on the White House lawn that September day in 1993 and watched an Israeli prime minister shake the bloodstained hand of Yasser Arafat, the atmosphere seemed funereal.

Bound up with Labor's false promises of a new Mideast dawn were irresponsible prediccoos like "100 years free from terrorism."

Over the White House the stench of a Munich-style appeasement hovered.

Last week the contrast couldn't have been more marked. We witnessed a new Israeli leader standing as a proud Jew alongside the same President Clinton who participated in that shameful "no more terrorism in our time" debacle of three years ago.

It was like celebrating a real Jewish wedding. Binyamin Netanyahu didn't preach any fashionable "New Zionism" liberal concept mocking the state's founding fathers. Arafat's name didn't cross his lips.

A dedicated Zionist and a national leader to whom security is paramount, Netanyahu spoke simple words of Jewish pride. They may have made trendy Jewish "liberals" sneer, but they warmed the hearts of most of those who heard him.

Among these were Netanyahu's three uncles, who had flown to Washington for the occasion.

One of them, his voice cracking with emotion, told us: "Our father, Nathan Milkovsky, was one of the great Zionists of his day. When the 1914-1918 war broke out, the Germans asked him to go to the US and persuade the president not to side against them. This is how he answered: 'I'll do it only if you promise, in writing, to create a Jewish state in Palestine if you win.'"

"Nathan would have been proud to hear his grandson speak with such deep conviction about the Zionist ideals he learned as a child," the uncle said. "We're not surprised by his speech to the Americans. We know where Bibi's roots lie."

As Netanyahu spoke, we scanned the faces of men like US

ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk, and champions of the Oslo accords like Dennis Ross. They looked grim. They just couldn't hide their disappointment.

These were the men who led Bill Clinton astray, getting him to back Shimon Peres to the hilt. They knew that if Peres got

mered home. The price of that handshake with Arafat can be seen, in retrospect, as a bloody disaster. It killed 200 Israelis and wrecked the lives of hundreds of others. It embittered the entire land of Israel and led to the shameful act of a young Jew assassinating his prime minister.

American Jews also spoke to us about hearing Binyamin Netanyahu either in person or on TV. Here at last, they said, was a man who spoke "like a true Jewish leader." Netanyahu was someone they felt they could look up to, a prime minister who put the interests of not only Israelis but all Jews first.

As one elderly gentleman said: "I feel I can walk proudly through the streets of New York again, knowing that here is a true leader of Zion who has arisen to give every Jew all over the world hope and strength for the future."

But this is just a beginning. Netanyahu's fine words and resolute promises must now be speedily translated into action. The Arab states surrounding Israel feel cheated of the victory they fully expected would follow Israel's elections. Under Labor rule, they were convinced, it would be only a matter of time before they could swoop down like vultures on a dead Jewish state.

Today it is becoming clear to them that there will be no more overlooking of unfulfilled Arab commitments, no surrender of the Golan Heights, no "land for peace" - only peace for peace. There is no doubt that Arafat's 50,000-strong "army," the direct product of Labor rule, will swing into action, as will the demented suicide squads from their safe havens in Gaza, Judea and Samaria. The new government's courage will be fiercely tested.

Binyamin Netanyahu put on a tremendous performance in the US, but his real challenge lies ahead. Has he the strength, the guts and the determination to initiate actions to fit his rousing words?

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

Now Netanyahu must summon up the courage to suit action to his rousing words

elect he would follow State Department policy to ensure that eastern Jerusalem become part of Yasser Arafat's budding Palestinian state and Israel shrink to a tiny rump in order to appease the oil-rich Arab world.

NETANYAHU told it straight to US Jews brainwashed by a biased media (led by the New York Times, which labeled Netanyahu a right-wing fanatic only too ready to march over Palestinians wearing steel-tipped boots). He told them that Jews had the right to live wherever they chose - including Judea and Samaria, the land of their biblical forebears.

We spoke to a variety of American Jews and heard again and again about their confusion three years ago at seeing Rahin shake hands with a man who some say has killed more Jews than anyone else since Hitler.

At first these US Jews accepted the promised 100 years of Oslo-style peace on trust. They swallowed the bogus excuse that Jewish deaths by terror were the price of peace.

Then they saw the Oslo "peace" accords lead to a record number of Israelis blown to bits on their buses and in their streets.

The harsh lesson that appeasement never pays must be ham-

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Missing no more?

DAVID FORMAN

THERE is nothing more painful than losing a child. Part of the morning service in the traditional prayer book is the biblical story of the sacrifice of Isaac. Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his beloved son is heart-stopping; it is the paradigm of absolute faith in God.

Theology aside, the daily recitation of this story hammers home the agony a parent suffers at having a child suddenly taken away.

Sacrificing our children on the altar of war and violence is a tragic component of life in our area of the world. It is what we Israelis most dread, and yet are prepared for should it happen because we believe that individual and personal sacrifice are necessary for the survival of the Jewish people.

For too long, six Israeli families have lived not only with the loss of their children in the conflict over this land, but with the agony of not knowing exactly what happened to them.

Sacrifice is one thing, infinitely sad but perhaps ultimately bearable if you know what the sacrifice is for. But uncertainty of the kind these six families of missing soldiers have suffered is unbearable. It is ongoing and unending.

There is no greater act of diplomatic wisdom an Israeli political leader could display than alleviating the emotional and psychological devastation these families feel.

The best way to prevent such loss recurring is to hasten the advent of peace. Yet the enticing prospects of peace in the making leave the actuality of harmony among nations still far off.

This makes it as necessary as ever to address the situation of the families who have been called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, after only a very short period in office, has already achieved a measure of greatness with the announcement that two of the six Israeli MIAs, whose bodies have apparently been discovered, might very well be returned for proper burial in Israel.

While the extended hope that both Yosef Fink and Rahamin Alsheikh were alive may have evaporated, the pain of not knowing - perhaps more debilitating than having their sons' deaths confirmed - may finally end for at least these two Israeli families.

REPORTS indicate that the process of uncovering the whereabouts of these missing soldiers and the other MIAs began while Shimon Peres was prime minister.

For two Israeli families the agony of 'not knowing' could soon end

Peres too deserves praise for facilitating the possible return of our missing men.

When he was prime minister Yitzhak Rabin took a representative of the MIAs' families along with him on a US trip. But it is clear that Netanyahu intends to do more than this.

He intends to make the issue of our missing soldiers a prominent feature of his government's peace-making policy. This intention was underscored by the fact that Miriam, mother of missing soldier Zachary Baumeil, was invited to join the new prime minister last week on his crucial first diplomatic visit to meet the US president.

And Netanyahu has conveyed this message to our peace partners in the clearest terms possible - that while the peace process will continue, information about our missing men is part and parcel of that process.

Judgog by Netanyahu's actions, it seems pretty certain that his first official meeting with Yasser Arafat - hopefully soon - will feature a pointed discussion aimed at eliciting information Arafat most likely has, and has till now withheld, regarding the fate of our boys.

To perish by the sword is worse than a natural death, to die of hunger worse still, and in captivity worst of all," says the Talmud.

The prime minister is to be commended for his prioritizing of an issue that has been a festering wound in the hearts not only of the families concerned, but of the whole nation.

Two families may soon - one prays - be able to sleep more peacefully at night. A resolution of the issue of Israel's other four missing soldiers must continue to figure high on the premier's list of priorities.

The writer is spokesperson of Rabbis for Human Rights.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOUSE OF SAUD

Sir, - Saddam Hussein may be very happy that the terrorist attack against American servicemen in Saudi Arabia was so successful, but he is hardly the one who initiated the attack.

Look no further than Prince Abdullah of the House of Saud and his "businessman" crony: Osama bin Laden. It is very clear that it is in their interest to destabilize even further the already very weak House of Saud. The former is well known for his anti-American sentiments; the latter for being against the House of Saud. As your article pointed out, Prince Abdullah is married to a Syrian, so Assad himself must have been involved indirectly.

JUDITH NATT Tel Aviv.

BUDGET CUTS

Sir, - I would like to comment on two points in the announced budget cuts which I read about recently in your paper ("Cabinet okay NIS 4.9b. budget cut," June 8).

Firstly, was it more sensible in a small country like Israel where road accidents are a common occurrence, to raise the price of travel on public transport, rather than put an extra tax on owners and drivers of private vehicles?

Secondly, it seems to me that the government's proposal to tax lottery and other gambling should include short-term gains made on the stock market.

VICTOR BLOOM Kibbutz Amiad.

RAIL TRAVEL

Sir, - I would like to take issue with Prime Minister Binayamin Netanyahu's proposal to end Egged's monopoly and have bus route competition bring down prices.

Why not help the railroads enter the competition? With all the traffic jams on roads today, and the already existing rail tracks, wouldn't rail travel be a cheap and practical option for intercity commuters?

CHAYA TANNOR Rehovot.

PROGRAMMING STANDARDS

Sir, - I recently had the rare opportunity to come home from work at 6 p.m., early enough to join my two children watching television. The channel was set on Channel 2, which one would think would be showing a family program. Not so, the soap Santa Barbara was on, with all its crudities. If that wasn't enough, suddenly, during a commercial break, my children were confronted with the question of whether they have enough "vaginal lubrication" for sexual intercourse.

Maybe I am too naive, but I assumed there was some higher authority in one of the ministries, or at the station itself, that deliberates on what should and can be viewed depending on the hour and content. Where is the sound judgment one would expect? Or is it just profit-making that's important?

SHELLEY PERLMAN-AZRAJ Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM'S BEAUTY

Sir, - In your editorial of July 7, "No concessions on Bar-Ilan," you write that "Jerusalem's greatness as a capital city lies in the sheer diversity of its inhabitants' religious and national affiliations." Jerusalem is not just "a capital city," but the eternal capital of Israel. The beauty of the capital of the Jewish state is its connection to Judaism.

Pubs on Friday night are not part of the beauty of Jerusalem. In the same issue as this editorial, there was an item entitled, "Suspect held in pub slaying." Pubs are never beautiful, let alone on Shabbat Kodesh.

KALMAN FEDER Nof Ayalon.

PRAISE

Sir, - I am writing in praise of the recent article by Hillel Halkin, "Wanted: 'Epikorsim'..." (J.P., June 28). The lightness of touch, depth of understanding, balm of tolerance, charm of humor, absence of pomposity! What a relief!

JACOB RYCUS Rehovot.

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATED

Sir, - The hickering between power groups over who knows best how to solve Israel's transport problems, as described in Jessica Steinberg's article in "Money Magazine" ("All Aboard?" J.P., July 3) will certainly not bring about the desired result.

Getting people where they want to go at the right time is not a simple matter which will be achieved by any one magic solution. It can only be made possible by coordinating and improving all the different means of transport. Trains, buses and walking must be integrated so that each mode complements, rather than competes with the others.

Only a strong guiding hand will succeed in forcing all the bodies involved: the Ports and Railways Authority, the municipalities, the bus companies and the various government departments, to work together to achieve the goal of providing a complete, coordinated transport system.

JEREMY TOPAZ Rehovot.

HIGHWAY SIGNS

Sir, - I drove west on highway number 5 recently, intending to turn south on the Ayalon Expressway into Tel Aviv. An overhead sign had "Tel Aviv" on the left and "Haifa" on the right, so I moved to the left lane. A few minutes later another overhead sign had "Tel Aviv" on the right and "Haifa" on the left, so I moved back the other way. Had it been rush hour, it could have been a problem.

Any time you force people to change lanes without proper notice, you are creating the potential for an accident - so much more so when the lane change is unnecessary. Confusion on the highway may not be the prime cause of accidents, but if it contributes to even a few, that is too many.

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ Elazar.

POSTSCRIPTS

WHAT Roy Stump and Robert Adkins had was lost in the rear of a German land mine - a friendship forged between two West Virginia boys in the waning days of World War II, then blown apart in Holland in February 1945. All that remained for a half-century was Adkins's fading memory of a fallen Army buddy.

Adkins did not bring much home from the war to remind him of his friend, only that foggy corner of the mind reserved for the past. It was there that Stump remained alive, forever the same hell-raising, red-haired little squirt.

In April, Adkins, 71, sat in a hospital waiting room in Lorain, Ohio. He fell into small talk with a white-haired man.

The men found they had things in common. They were just over 70. Each had worked for the Ford Motor Co. And they both had served in the Big One in the same anti-aircraft battalion. When the stranger asked if any of Adkins's mates had perished in the war, Adkins mentioned "Little Red."

"I hate to disappoint you," the white-haired man said, "but I'm very much alive."

Even after 42 shrapnel fragments sliced into his body, even after a medic had removed his dog tags - the silent battlefield pronouncement of death - Stump had survived. A half-century after he and Adkins parted on a narrow Dutch road, they found

each other in the factory town where both lived.

"Old friendship never dies," Stump said. "I found the one guy I went through hell with. And look here, we come out OK. I know we can't do the things we did back then - too old to chase girls, son. But we'll do what we can do. Ain't gonna lose this thing twice."

"Amen," Adkins said.

MAYBE THEY FELT GUILTY.

Two dogs called the police emergency number after ransacking their owner's home in Salisbury, England.

"The woman answering the emergency number heard gurgling and breathing," said Carol Galpin. "She thought someone had collapsed."

Police contacted Galpin at her workplace; there was no one at home to collapse, as far as she knew.

A patrolman popped by to see what the trouble was. He looked through the letter box and seeing a mess, and presumed a hungry had taken place. Galpin rushed home and discovered that her two dogs had pulled dozens of books off the shelves. "They had ransacked the place. Everything was everywhere," she said. "They had a really good time."

They also pulled the phone off the table, into her bedroom and onto her bed, and dialed 999, the

emergency number in Britain.

"They would have actually had to press the buttons," she said. "They might've known they'd done something."

TIRED OF absentee students, a Russian medical school is imposing fines on students and giving the money to angry teachers.

The Medical Academy in Dagesthan in southern Russia recently began imposing the fines because so many students were missing classes.

Students must pay 5,000 rubles (\$1) for each hour of class they miss, no matter how good an excuse they might have. The money goes to teachers who have to repeat lectures for students who missed them.

A 5-YEAR-OLD boy jumping on a bed bounced out a third-story apartment window and landed in some landscaping, where he was shaken up but not seriously hurt.

The Bedford, Oregon, boy complained of some back and head pain and was taken to a hospital, but suffered only minor injuries and was sent home.

The boy was with a baby sister, and bounced right through the screen of an open window. He fell about 7.5 meters and landed in a sitting position in some soft bark dust in a landscaping bed.

Handwritten signature or note in Hebrew.

Sar-El: Where body meets soul in the army

The IDF volunteer program lets foreigners play a role in the country's defense, Keren Markuze writes

CORPORATE executive Robin Haas is temporarily out of a desk and swivel chair. Instead, she stands for seven hours a day, and in assembly-line fashion checks bag after bag of medical equipment.

Far away from her New York office, 42-year-old Haas is situated on an army base in central Israel. The blue tag on her khaki army-uniform shoulder identifying her as a volunteer, she throws herself into her work, excited about this opportunity to serve Israel.

She is not alone. Thousands of men and women leave their homes, jobs and families annually for a chance to volunteer in the IDF.

These people were given the opportunity to play a part through an organization called Sar-El, which was founded in 1982 to bring Diaspora Jewry to Israel to volunteer in the army.

The need for such a recruitment effort arose during the time of the Lebanon War. During this period all able bodies were mobilized, leaving much agricultural activity almost at a virtual standstill.

Recognizing the desperate need for extra help, General Aharon Davidi, then the director of the Golan Heights community cultural activities, sent some of his friends to the US, and was quite pleased when they came back with 650 volunteers to care for the plantations.

Though it was originally meant to be a one-time project, the volunteers were so enthusiastic about their work, they requested the project continue on a permanent basis.

Under the leadership of Davidi, it did.



Sar-El volunteers do everything from organizing supplies, maintaining equipment, painting, gardening, constructing or working in the kitchen. (Above right) The father of Sar-El, Aharon Davidi. (Ariel Jerolimski)

Since its inception, the program has attracted a total of 54,000 volunteers from as many as 25 countries.

The majority are from the older generation. According to Davidi this phenomenon is due to a sense of personal obligation to Israel and Judaism on the part of those who lived through the Holocaust, and witnessed the establishment of the State of Israel. "We think that all those who participate go back with the feeling that they have participated in rebuilding Israel," he says.

The commander of the Sar-El unit, General Moshe Bitton, explains that the program cases the conscience of many of the volunteers. "Their body is in the Diaspora, but their soul is in Israel. The army brings the two together."

GLORIA LAPPE, 63, from Chicago is currently volunteering in the medical supply center. With a pendant reading "Bubbe"

dangling around her neck, Lappe radiates excitement about the program.

"It's wonderful," she says. "It is something everyone can give to Israel. It doesn't always have to be money."

It is precisely this feeling of giving a physical contribution to Israel, as opposed to a monetary one, that attracts so many to Sar-El.

"This is a remarkable opportunity to build something, to give up yourself, and do something with your hands. I'm used to thinking with my mind. Here I do physical work. I actually see a physical product and I feel a sense of accomplishment," explains Haas.

However, the younger generation seems to have lost its ideological motivation, says Davidi.

Since the Gulf war in 1991, when the number of volunteers reached its peak, numbers have been declining.

Dr. David Clayman, executive director of the Israel Office of the American Jewish Congress, explains this decline as a "general malaise in America towards Israel."

American Jews in particular are finding difficulty in relating to the new image Israel is projecting of a bearded religious man, as opposed to the image of the kibbutz youth in a "kova tembel" that was once evoked, says Clayman.

"There used to be two great things in Israel," he continues, "the kibbutz and the IDF. Kibbutz programs are down, and the IDF is following the way of the kibbutz. It is not as magical as it used to be."

But judging from those who do come on the program, the IDF has not lost its magic for everyone.

Stationed at 15 bases and five hospitals across the country, the volunteers go about their jobs with smiles on their faces, thrilled to be playing a part in Israel's

defense, whether it's organizing supplies, maintaining equipment, painting, gardening, constructing or working in the kitchen.

Their work frees reservists to do something else and also saves the army money. According to Bitton, there is a saving of NIS 208 per person in the medical-supplies center.

However, some volunteers are slightly disappointed upon arrival to find out they are not doing something more demanding.

Volunteer Mike Levine recalls his experience on the program back in 1984.

"Usefulness was a problem then too. [We] thought we were going to turn the world upside down. All the volunteers that I knew felt they weren't doing enough."

According to Bitton, the motivation and desire on the part of the volunteers to give is so big that they always feel they can do more.



(Above right) The father of Sar-El, Aharon Davidi. (Ariel Jerolimski)

volunteers' biggest complaint is their daily schedule, which consists of seven hours of work between which are interspersed many breaks.

"The work ethic doesn't meet their expectation," says Katz. "They see that most of the time they drink coffee and play backgammon."

But in the end, they always do their job well and efficiently, recognizing that its importance lies not in its degree of difficulty.

British volunteer Rafael Joseph, 19, packs medical kits. He says, "It's not amazingly hard, but it's something that has to be done."

"We realize the worth of our job," says Marion Richer, who fills cartons with medical supplies to be distributed all over the country.

Volunteer Yehuda Ben-Moshe realized from his experience in 1989 that "being part of the army is not always part of the romantic paratroopers. There are nuts-and-

bolts things that have to be done, things have to be clean, people have to eat. Sar-El fills in gaps like that."

And soldiers really appreciate their effort, say the volunteers. "The soldiers learn to value the contribution that Sar-El people make to the base. They see that somebody is thinking about them, and they don't feel alone," says Ben-Moshe.

He describes their relationship as one of master and apprentice, where the volunteer is learning valuable lessons from the soldier about his country and his commitment to its defense.

In fact, the attraction to Israeli society is sometimes so overwhelming that 6 per cent of Sar-El volunteers made aliyah following their service.

And those who didn't still remember their Sar-El experience fondly and take pride in the contribution they made to Israel, not with their pocketbooks, but with their own two hands.

Newlyweds should sing for their supper

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



DEAR Ruthie, Our daughter and son-in-law, newly wed, wish to move in with us to save money on rent. True, we have a large house, with adequate facilities. However, my wife and I are extremely hesitant about this arrangement. We feel that a young couple should learn to fend for themselves financially. We have no qualms about giving them assistance, but supporting them is against our principles.

Dear Ruthie, My wife is always on at me about my appearance. Every time I get dressed, she examines my clothes for wrinkles. The verdict invariably ends up being that I need to iron what I'm wearing. But I hate ironing, and don't see the point in her doing it either. What difference does it make if my shirt is a bit wrinkled? Even after it's ironed, it gets wrinkled while I'm wearing it anyway. What do you suggest?
Flas Out & Frustrated
Jerusalem

Dear FOF, This particular wrinkle in your marriage suggests other "pressing" issues are underlying your iron. To your wife, your apathy about appearance may symbolize slovenliness in general. Unable to change that inner part of you most troublesome to her, she goes after the outer covering. To you, the iron may represent your spouse's attempt to "straighten" you out. If so, your aversion to it is misplaced. However, if you and your wife wish to "iron out" the differences, either you have to deal with the problem's root of the problem, or to be a bit more flexible where clothing is concerned. Being the more superficial of the two, the latter would seem to be a good start in the direction of the former. Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

This is our youngest child, the only one born in Israel. She is 15 years younger than the youngest of the first three. Not only are we a bit old-fashioned, but we are getting on in years. It is hard for us to get used to much of the Israeli mentality. In my day, a couple did not enter into marriage without first having some financial base. Our daughter did not listen to us when we suggested this.

Nevertheless, we financed a large wedding (which both our daughter and our son-in-law wanted). It has always been difficult for us to refuse our daughter's requests. Her husband, by the way, comes from a poor family. Currently he and my daughter are living with his family in very cramped conditions. My wife and I are at a loss about what to do.

Parents of a Princess
Ra'anana
Dear King and Queen in a Quandary,

This is probably not the first time you've felt torn between your principles and your daughter's defiance of them. By your own account, "refusing her requests" has always been a problem. The difference here is another person has entered the dynamic. Rather than having your son-in-law "alleviate" past family patterns, he has now become an extended addition to them.

Your real problem, then, is not whether to house the newlyweds, but your ill ease with having to deny them an easier time getting settled. Guilt, coupled with not wanting to appear stingy, is the culprit here.

The question to ask yourselves now is whether you wish to assert your principles at all costs. If so, you should deny the couple's request. If doing so causes you the kind of pain you have tried avoiding for so long, however, you might want to reconsider. Then, you could by way of a few conditions for your agreement. Set a time limit on their "free lunch," for example, or have the couple "sing for their supper" a bit if you are "getting on in years," you may be able to use the extra hands.

Mort Sahl: Still the joker of LA lore

TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES

MORE than 40 years after stand-up satirist Mort Sahl packed in Berkeley undergrads and hip San Franciscans at the hungry nightclub, his jaundiced eye still surveys the foibles of his countrymen.

"Watching the movie *Independence Day*, you get an idea of where we are when the aliens blow up the White House and the audience cheers," he observes, while sipping a coffee at the Glen Deli in Bel Air.

Or, "We now have a generation that hasn't fought anything but acne." At the age of 69, Sahl's hair is turning gray, but his bright blue eyes still appraise the audience, even if it's only a single reporter, and his rolling laughter still punctuates his sallies.

Next he turns to the state of the Jews and how they are portrayed on

stage and screen, bearing down hard on the "please don't hit me" attitude of a Woody Allen or Elaine May. "Look at Neil Simon's plays..." Sahl warns to his subject. "It's amazing how we retreat artistically to cartoon-like figures, the overbearing Jewish mother, the Jewish American Princess. How about all these guys named Jeff in Italian suits who run the Hollywood studios?"

The quips still roll off, challenging the listener's mental acuity, yet occasionally a strained note creeps in. Take his classic observation on three generations of sexual politics. "In the '50s, you had to be a Jew to get a girl. In the '60s, you had to be black to get a girl. In the '70s, you had to be a girl to get a girl."

Asked to update the quip, Sahl responds that in the materialistic '80s, you had to be rich to make out

and in the '90s you have to possess power to get the girl. The answer hardly matches the zing of the original.

Sahl has always been an equal-opportunity insulter. "Is there anyone here I haven't offended?" he used to ask his audiences. But judging by a 75-minute interview, Sahl now weighs in most sharply against the liberals, who were his most faithful acolytes in the olden days.

"Liberals used to be vital, they fought for unions and the end of the Vietnam War. Then they went into things like gender bias, and got castrated, in effect." He says the liberals "left me. Do you think that [former Democratic presidential candidate and one of his idols] Adlai Stevenson would recognize a

Mondale or a Dukakis?" As for conservatives, "We all know they are neanderthals, who always fear that we'll take away what they have."

In his view of Hollywood, Sahl, who has been an occasional screen writer and actor, outdoes Bob Dole.

"What we get in the movies now are guns, drugs, violence and ersatz machismo.... There was more moral resolution in an old John Wayne movie than in all current movies put together."

Lying just beneath the surface of Sahl's humor is a deep personal pain. His only child, a 19-year-old son, died in March in circumstances which are still under investigation. He and his Chinese-American wife were divorced five years ago.

"My wife touched my heart and my son opened my heart. I've learned that intelligence is a meager

defense against your emotional pain," Sahl lives by himself now "but sees a couple of different people."

He brightens when the conversation turns to Los Angeles, where the Montreal-born entertainer has lived, off and on, since he was eight years old.

Sahl likes LA (and heartily dislikes New York) and is about to open a one-month run of his *Mort Sahl's America* show.

"LA is like a girl you meet at a dance, you get a rush of passion and go to bed with her. The next day you see her at another party and she says, 'nice to meet you.' She doesn't even acknowledge you. Every day you go to renew your acquaintance... it drives me crazy."

This is the stuff that fuels his comedy. "Social hypocrisy is eternal," he says.

The bikini: 50 years of naked navels

The dark days of World War II had ended and a liberated France was in the mood to let go.

So when a French automotive engineer sketched a two-piece bathing suit and named it after the South Pacific atoll where the Americans were setting off atomic bombs, the creation became an instant - though controversial - hit.

Fifty years later, the bikini is still a hit.

The naughty little two-piecer made a sensational debut at the fashionable Moltor swimming pool in Paris on July 5, 1946. A year after the Nazis were kicked out of France, it was another liberation of sorts.

"It meant the liberation of the body," said Catherine Join-Dieterle, head curator of the Galliera Fashion

Museum in Paris.

Now the bikini has gone high tech. Allowing for a few blips with more modest one-piece tank suits fashionable in the late 1980s, the bikini blossomed, or rather receded.

It is baring more flesh than ever, and often in neon shades of green or pink, though Chanel is hanging in with black and white. And the price tag gets ever larger.

The original was a much more baggy version than today's high-tech elasticized models. Today's panties often barely cover the pelvis, though they're not quite the tiny G-string promoted in Rio de Janeiro since the 1970s.

The swimsuit fashioned of three strategic triangles was the brainchild of Louis Reard, a Renault engineer-designer. The little bikini created its own mini-explosion in the press and with early paparazzi.

The uproar from churches and other critics over baring women's navels in public was deafening. Bikinis were immediately banned on beaches in some predominantly Roman Catholic countries. Even Hollywood frowned on them at first.

But they were enthusiastically taken up by postwar French women, and soon became a trademark of curvaceous Brigitte Bardot and

other nubile beauties.

Americans were latecomers and finally took bikinis to New York's Jones Beach in the late 1960s. The two-piece caught on with the baby boomers, surf culture, beach music and Hollywood cinema.

The French very often discard tops and turn the whole look into a "monokini."

Relative modesty came back a few years ago with fashionable stretch one-piece tank suits, cut-outs in interesting places, or backless looks. But designers like Karl Lagerfeld, Donna Karan and Calvin Klein have brought out two-pieces again.

"The bikini has made a comeback," said Haruo Kimura, the Tokyo-based author of a book on swimwear history.

"Small as it is, the bikini is a very big item," said Annick Huet, a spokeswoman for Rasarel, a top French swimwear manufacturer, now a subsidiary of the American conglomerate Warnaco. "We're seeing nearly 50 percent bikini sales, versus one-piece, up considerably over a few years ago."

She reckons the clinging new fabrics are attractive. They're also secure - gone are the days of diving into the lake and losing your bikini bottoms, thanks to new stretch fabrics.

"We even have some models in fabrics that mold to the skin with body heat," Ms. Huet said. (AP)

Birth Control in Jewish Law

Marital Relations, Contraception, and Abortion as set forth in the classic texts of Jewish Law by David M. Feldman

An examination of the relevant precepts of the Talmud, Codes, Commentaries, and, especially, rabbinic responsa through the present day, with comparative reference to the Christian exegetical tradition. The 1995 epilogue to this book, which is standard on many a Jewish bookshelf, includes new developments and implications of the new reproductive technology with an update and review of the abortion debate. Hardcover, 348 pp.

JP Price: NIS 65, incl. VAT and p&h in Israel

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Treasury, Bank of Israel to propose market reform

EVELYN GORDON

THE Treasury and the Bank of Israel will submit proposals for structural reform of the capital markets to the Knesset in about a month, Deputy Finance Minister David Magen said yesterday.

"The Treasury attaches great importance to structural reforms of the market, which will ensure companies' ability to raise money for long-term investment, and [enable] individuals to participate in financing these investments and share in the profits," he told the plenum, in response to seven motions for the agenda on the market crisis.

Magen said the Treasury is now examining several different proposals, in an effort to address the problematic characteristics of the Israeli market. The proposals will also be aimed at increasing the bourse's exposure to international capital markets, he said.

One major problem, he said, is that about 95% of the more than 1,000 companies traded on the bourse are controlled by a handful of major investors. Another is liquidity.

"The average trading volume per company is the lowest in the world, about \$22 million a year," he said. "In addition, in 1992-94 the value of the market changed by an average of 11% a month, a level of variability which puts our market on a level with unstable economies such as Peru and Argentina."

The bond market, he said, suffers from an "outmoded and complicated" trading system, the Kerem, which "causes random fluctuations in bond prices and thereby injures the ability of financial institutions to operate efficiently."

In addition, he said, the bond market also suffers from very low trading volume - about NIS 100 million a day. This means that any large transaction creates shock

Nestle exercises option to purchase 10% of Osem

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SWISS-BASED multinational food giant Nestle has exercised its option to purchase 10 percent of Osem Industries common stock, increasing its share of the company to almost 15%.

Before the purchase, Nestle had a 4.9% stake in the local food company.

The option, which was received in July 1995 and was due to expire tomorrow, gave Nestle the right to purchase about 10% of the company's shares for \$6.75 a share, totaling about \$40m.

Exercise of the option also gives Nestle voting rights and a right to appoint a representative on Osem's board of directors. Nestle purchased the option for \$1.89m.

Capital market analysts feared the recent drop in the stock market would discourage Nestle from taking advantage of its option. At the end of trading Tuesday, the company plunged 7.75%, reducing the company's market value to \$390m.

Several weeks ago, Osem general manager Dan Propper said the company would benefit if Nestle increased its shares. He said Osem sees Nestle as an important strategic partner, and that Nestle has already helped the company complete some of its local and overseas goals. Today, Osem distributes Nestle products here and cooperates with it in manufacturing.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dispomedic has signed a \$1.4 million export agreement with a Brazilian syringe manufacturer. Dispomedic supplies about 70 percent of the syringes used in Israel. Dispomedic owner Nahoum Manbar, an Israeli businessman who lives in Nice, France, denied rumors that he is reducing his activities here. Galit Lipkis Beck

Canadian millionaire Mathew Bronfman, the younger brother of Edgar Bronfman, has recently become a partner in the Dunkin Donut chain in Israel. The first branch is scheduled to open in Tel Aviv at the end of July. About \$2 million will be invested in the branch. Galit Lipkis Beck

Intel Corp. and Microsoft Corp. announced yesterday that they have signed a licensing pact to develop technology to allow multimedia voice, video, and data conferencing calls on the Internet. The computer and software giants said they would share protocols and technologies to insure the universality of the system. They are also working with Internet service providers to make it easy to find people on-line using Microsoft's User LocaDoco Service. Reuter

India approved a joint venture between Germany's BMW and India's Hero group to build cars in the country, an Industry Ministry statement said yesterday. BMW will control 51 percent of the venture, which will be called BMW India Ltd.

"This would provide greater competition among the foreign car manufacturing companies which have positioned themselves in India and will also result in quality improvement and export promotion," the statement said. Reuter

Italian flag carrier Alitalia will post a \$788 million loss in 1996 after restructuring, the chairman of its parent, industrial holding IRI [IRI.CN], told a parliamentary committee yesterday. Michele Tedeschi told the Public Works Committee of the Senate (upper house) that the loss included 800 billion lire of charges relating to the company's restructuring plan. It would be Alitalia's ninth straight year of losses. Reuter

The European Commission cleared the merger of Swiss drugs giants Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz yesterday after the two agreed to grant non-exclusive licenses for methoprene, an animal anti-parasite product.

The merger between the two companies will create Novartis, the world's No. 2 in the drugs sector, after Glaxo-Wellcome, and the leading worldwide supplier of crop protection products.

The commission's decision in May to start an in-depth probe prompted fears that the operation would be seriously scaled down, as happened with Procter & Gamble's acquisition of German hygiene products firm Schickedanz in 1994.

However, the Swiss companies and the Commission speedily agreed on changes to address competition concerns. Reuter

Ukraine wants more US aid: Foreign Minister Hennady Udovenko said yesterday that Ukraine, already the third-largest recipient of US foreign aid, wants even more from Washington this year.

"We are not talking to [the Americans] about reducing aid next year. In fact, we are asking about increasing it for this year," Udovenko told reporters after talks with Strobe Talbot, US first deputy Secretary of State.

Ukraine's allocation of \$225 million in US aid this year is behind only Israel and Egypt. Reuter



Elderly members of the 600-Silver union wear headbands during a demonstration in front of the Bank of Japan in Tokyo yesterday to raise interest rates and scrap the decision to increase the consumption tax to five percent. (Reuters)

Social welfare groups lash out at budget cuts

DAVID HARRIS

TEN social welfare groups yesterday made a joint plea for the government to cancel its plans for "widespread social cuts," which they say will create a social divide between rich and poor.

The organizations, which include the National Council for the Child and the Israeli Pensioners Association, said the proposed cut of NIS 4.9 billion includes measures which would irreparably damage the young, old, and socially disadvantaged.

"The government is destroying the social safety net," said Barbara Epstein, director of Community Advocacy - Genesis Israel. Her organization, which helps poor people obtain social rights and entitlements, claims the cuts will affect not only the socially weak, but also those who earn more than the average wage.

Earlier this week, three ministries and the National Insurance Institute held a joint briefing at which they argued that people on low incomes would only be affected by the proposed minimal medical charges (NIS 3 for every visit to a doctor, up to a monthly maximum of NIS 15) and the 13% increase in transport fares.

This claim was rejected by the 10 groups, who say the cuts will create fresh social tensions.

The organizations list at least 11 cabinet approved proposals which they say are bound to affect the weak, including price rises on medicines, the axing of transportation to school for disabled children, and a NIS 69 annual charge for preventative health care in schools for each child in a family.

Sharansky: More aid unlikely for Dimona Textiles

EVELYN GORDON

THE government will not give any more money to Dimona Textiles unless the company has a real chance of recovery, which currently looks unlikely, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday.

Sharansky, who was responding to two motions for the agenda on the subject in the Knesset, said the ministry has been trying to find a private investor for the company. If this fails, however, the only solution will be to close the firm and try to find other jobs for its 280 workers, he said.

"Under no circumstances are we willing to continue to spend money that is not doing any good," he said. "The [only] solution is a fundamental change in its management and financing."

"The [ministry's] investment center, in the framework of the Capital Investments Encouragement Law, has over the years given Dimona Textile... more than NIS 45 million," he noted. "This is at least two or two-and-a-half times more than the price for which Dimona Textile could have been sold even in good times, and especially in days like these."

The government has still not transferred NIS 2m. of the NIS 15m. promised the company as part of the most recent rescue effort, he added, because it was waiting to see the firm's results for 1995. Seeing the heavy losses on the balance sheet, however, merely increased doubt as to the benefits of transferring more money.

"There are only two or three officials [in the Treasury and Industry Ministry] who think we should transfer more money, and there are dozens who think we shouldn't," he said. "But even those who think we should give the company money say there is no doubt that in another month or two, we'll be back in the same situation. [They only say] we need to give the money for political reasons, because it isn't good to close the factory right now. It's not good for a new government to start off like that; it would be better to close the factory in two months. Is that a solution?"

"We've already lost NIS 45 million," he continued. "Should we give another NIS 2m. now to postpone the closure for another month or two? Should we do this, just because we don't have the courage to say 'enough'?"

Sharansky added that Dimona Textile's story is a classic example of the pitfalls inherent in the Capital Investments Encouragement Law.

"If [this law] is not used properly, it can perpetuate failures," he said. "It can bring weak companies which aren't capable of surviving [on their own] to development towns, and turn them into a burden on the towns."

Israel also often pays an exaggerated price to attract factories under the law, as in the case of the \$600m. Intel, he added.

"I checked, and found that no other country in the world gave Intel such sums," he said. "Intel invested exactly the same sum in Ireland as it is investing here, but Ireland is paying eight times less than we are paying."

Sharansky was responding to charges by MKs Shaul Amior (Likud) and Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) that the government's decision to reduce maximum grant sizes from 34% to 20% of the total investment would destroy the development towns.

Tadiran Communications sells \$5m. in phone equipment to Poland

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TADIRAN Communications has sold \$5 million worth of telecommunications equipment to TPSA, the Polish government's telephone company, a Tadiran spokesman said yesterday.

The equipment, known as Mulogain, allows phone companies to use the existing telephone infrastructure in a more efficient way by making it possible for up to eight telephones to operate on the same copper line. The equipment TPSA purchased will allow it to operate four telephones on one line.

Tadiran Telecommunications (Nasdaq), which has supplied its equipment throughout the Far East, Europe and Eastern Europe, also announced this week that Bulgaria paid Tadiran \$2m. to install a digital communications network in the country's Simitry region.

The Polish government's efforts to upgrade TPSA's system come at a time when the government has opened the telecommunications field to competition. Israeli companies such as the Dankner Group have invested more than \$20m. in private Polish companies such as R.P. Telekom.

Polish officials have said that the government also intends to sell TPSA in the future.

Leumi to sell 16.5%-19% of Migdal to Italian firm

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi is in advanced negotiations to sell 16.5 percent-19% of Migdal, the country's largest insurance company, to Assicurazioni Generali, Italy's largest insurer, in the framework of the bank's sale of its surplus non-financial assets.

Leumi's share in Migdal is held through Leumi Insurance Holdings, a company controlled by the bank, and Africa Israel which serves as Leumi's real estate arm.

According to the announcement, Generali will purchase 16.5%-19% of Leumi Insurance issued capital, after it exchanges the shares it owns in Migdal, about 27% of the company's issued capital, with Leumi Insurance shares. Insurance sources estimate Migdal's value at more than NIS 1 billion.

Bank Leumi intends to register Leumi Insurance shares for trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Bank Leumi said it is considering the possibility of offering Migdal's other share holders the possibility to exchange their shares for Leumi Insurance shares.

The talks between Generali and Bank Leumi reached a serious stage about a month ago after Leumi board Eitan Raff informed the Italians of amendments to the Income Tax Law which will enable the spin-off of Migdal from Africa Israel without having to pay tax.

Generali controls 86 different companies in 40 countries. At the end of 1995, its overall assets were valued at about \$65 billion.

According to the government banking reforms, Bank Leumi must reduce its holdings in non-financial assets to a maximum of 25% by the end of the year and 20% by the end of 1997.

Earlier this week, Leumi published advertisements inviting potential local and international investors to purchase 24.99% of Africa Israel's share capital and 30% of its voting rights.

The bank said the package will be sold in a transaction outside of the stock exchange.

After the sale, Bank Leumi's holdings in the company will drop to 15%. Africa Israel's market value is about \$390m.

Beilin: Current budget plan will not prevent crisis

DAVID HARRIS

THE cabinet decision to cut the 1996 budget by NIS 350 million is nowhere near enough to prevent a crisis, MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) said yesterday.

Beilin said that stabilizing the economy requires a NIS 2b. savings this year, and added that the money should come from the defense and welfare budgets and reduced labor costs.

Former Finance Ministry director-general Ezra Sadeh said the long-term future of the economy cannot be ensured if the prime minister and Treasury continue caving in to ministerial pressure, adding that the government's current plan amounts to very small cuts in real terms.

Sadeh called the prime minister's decision to reduce defense spending in 1997 by NIS 820 million, instead of the initial proposal of NIS 1.7 billion, "a very grave mistake."

The Finance Ministry and Bank of Israel, meanwhile, announced a package of plans aimed at slowing down withdrawals from retirement fund accounts and easing worries over the capital market.

After leading share prices fell for 10 consecutive days, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange came to a standstill yesterday as a result of the Histadrut-organized strike.

The TASE has dropped more than 20% since the election of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on May 29.

"People say we must reduce the interest rates," said Beilin. "But without the necessary fiscal steps, that will do no good."

Netanyahu's conscious decision to "forget about peace" and talk finance, particularly during his recent trip to the US, is a huge blow to the stock exchange and investors in general, said Beilin.

Both Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor must realize the country's economy has a "gloomy future," unless they link economics with the peace process, he said.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

| Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.6.96) | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|--|
| Currency (deposit for) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS | |
| U.S. dollar (\$250,000) | 4.525 | 4.675 | 5.375 | |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.250 | |
| French franc (FF 200,000) | 1.875 | 1.875 | 2.375 | |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.500 | |
| Yen (10 million yen) | | | | |

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

| Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (16.7.96) | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------|-----------|------|--------------|
| Currency basket | CHECKS AND TRANSFERS | | BANKNOTES | | Rep. Rates** |
| | Buy | Sell | Buy | Sell | |
| U.S. dollar | 3.5403 | 3.5975 | 3.10 | 3.28 | 3.5751 |
| German mark | 3.1590 | 3.2100 | 2.75 | 2.90 | 3.1850 |
| French franc | 2.0955 | 2.1253 | 1.82 | 1.92 | 2.1235 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 4.9082 | 4.9524 | 4.32 | 4.50 | 4.9598 |
| Dutch guilder | 0.6180 | 0.6280 | 0.80 | 0.82 | 0.6294 |
| Swiss franc | 2.8804 | 2.9289 | 2.53 | 2.57 | 2.8294 |
| Norwegian krone | 1.8953 | 1.8959 | 1.83 | 1.83 | 1.8913 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.5417 | 2.5827 | 2.22 | 2.22 | 2.5261 |
| Italian lira (1000) | 0.4702 | 0.4778 | 0.48 | 0.49 | 0.4758 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 0.4883 | 0.4882 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.4834 |
| Australian dollar | 0.8885 | 0.8987 | 0.87 | 0.87 | 0.8828 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.3046 | 2.3447 | 2.08 | 2.08 | 2.3209 |
| Portuguese escudo (200) | 2.5043 | 2.5447 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.5189 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 0.7111 | 0.7225 | 0.64 | 0.73 | 0.7157 |
| Irish punt | 1.0167 | 1.0281 | 0.99 | 1.05 | 1.0210 |
| Israeli sheqel (10) | 2.8778 | 3.0259 | 2.92 | 3.07 | 3.0778 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 2.0590 | 2.0923 | 2.02 | 2.13 | 2.0945 |
| Jordanian dinar | 4.3300 | 4.4900 | 4.39 | 4.59 | 4.4909 |
| Egyptian pound | 0.8000 | 0.8900 | 0.80 | 0.98 | 1.0272 |
| FL | 3.2558 | 4.0194 | 4.96 | 4.96 | 4.0076 |
| Irish punt | 5.0430 | 5.1944 | 4.96 | 5.20 | 5.1008 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.4827 | 2.5228 | 2.44 | 2.56 | 2.5161 |

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Ministry of the Interior
Tender No. 11/96
Contents: Conversion of statutory plans and programs, including National, Regional and agricultural Conservation plans, from manual form to digital form.
The plans will be converted to the Ministry of the Interior GIS (AGAM System).
Latest date for submission: Tuesday 17.9.96 by 12.00.
The tender documents will be available by 17.7.96 - 13.8.96 at: Mr. Yosef Greenzweig, room no. 105, Ministry of the Interior, 2 Kaplan St. Hakira, Jerusalem on Sunday to Thursday, 09.00 - 13.00.
Telephone numbers of the Tendree: 02-701464, Mr David Cohen, Planning Administration, Ministry of the Interior

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Ford's profits top Wall St. estimates

DEARBORN, Michigan, (Bloomberg) — Ford Motor Co. beat Wall Street's highest expectations with a 7.5 percent increase in second-quarter profit...

tremerly hot for particular vehicles, and Ford hit a home run with its F-series (pickup) trucks," said Michael Schmall, director of automotive forecasting with I.D. Power and Associates.

grace the US has [of] sport utility vehicles and pickups with high margins." Ford's profit in Europe plunged almost 40% to \$196 million in the second quarter.

through rebates and cheap lease programs, but at the same time is slowly raising prices on its pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles...

Time Warner: FTC okayed Turner purchase

NEW YORK (AP) — Time Warner said yesterday that officials of a US government agency had agreed to approve its \$7.5 billion purchase of Turner Broadcasting System to create the world's largest media and entertainment company.

TCI's ownership stake in Turner, which would become about a 9% interest in Time Warner after the deal is complete, had become a big competitive issue.

EU not satisfied with US compromise on anti-Cuba trade law

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The European Union, clearly not satisfied with a compromise by US President Bill Clinton on Washington's anti-Cuba trade laws, yesterday reiterated it would press ahead with plans for retaliation.

— the 15-nation bloc's executive — a mandate to examine retaliatory measures should Clinton not waive Title III.

Jordanian opposition protests price rises

AMMAN (Reuters) — Jordan's Islamic-dominated opposition said yesterday it would mount a campaign of public protests to force the government to abandon IMF-sanctioned plans to triple the price of bread.

The government has promised to ease the impact of the move on Jordan's poor — a majority of the 4.2 million population — by compensating them with cash handouts and offering legislative action to raise public sector salaries.

The EU has lead opposition to the four-part act — an amalgamation of decades of US anti-Cuba policy — and in particular the so-called "Title III," which Clinton passed into law on Tuesday, although suspending its implementation.

The WTO dispute is one of four retaliatory measures being considered by the EU. Officials are also examining the possibility of allowing European companies the right to counter-sue US companies or individuals who bring cases against them.

Opposition sources said the opposition coalition of nine parties — a cross-section of left wing, Pan-Arabist and Islamist groups — had agreed after heated debates over the last few days to stage non-violent protests, including a large demonstration in Amman next Tuesday.

The government is under pressure from the International Monetary Fund to reduce its mounting 1996 food subsidy program after record grain prices.

European stocks close higher on firmer Dow

LONDON (Reuters) — European stocks closed higher yesterday in a strong rally after Wall Street made a healthy start, shrugging off the volatile trading of the previous day.

trading because of New York's strength. "But the problem is whether the US will continue to rebound. Chances for a recovery here aren't at all bad but, of course, we'd be hard pressed to survive another bad slide across the Atlantic," a London trader said of the German hour.

"Washington says liability will still accumulate despite there being no possibility of court action until February 1," Guilford said. "This is very damaging to business confidence."

On Monday, EU foreign ministers gave the European Commission a mandate to examine retaliatory measures should Clinton not waive Title III.

The government said this month it plans to raise the cost of bread to 250 fils (NIS 1) a kilo from the current 85 fils but has not said when the increase will take effect.

London, which suffered 1.8 percent drop on the FTSE index yesterday, closed up 0.7% as investors took heart from Wall Street's renewed vigor.

The dollar's weakness was despite much talk of possible central bank intervention to prop up the currency. When nothing solid materialized, traders began testing the downside again.

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Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency and rate.

NEW YORK MARKET table with columns for market and change.

New York market indexes table with columns for index and change.

Other stock market indexes table with columns for index and change.

LIBOR MONEY MARKET table with columns for rate and change.

Dollar crossrates (US) table with columns for rate and change.

LIBOR RATES table with columns for rate and change.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table.

US COMMODITIES AND METALS table with columns for commodity and price.

US COMMODITIES table with columns for commodity and price.

Spot market metals (US) table with columns for metal and price.

New York metal futures table with columns for metal and price.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES table with columns for stock name, price, and change.

NYSE continues climb

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Stocks extended their recovery yesterday, but some investors were cautious ahead of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's semiannual Congressional testimony today.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 18.12 points at 5,376.88, after giving up much of an early sharp gain of more than 70 points.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Currency cross-rates table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, and FF.

Betar wins, Haifa loses in UEFA Cup encounters

DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

BETAR Jerusalem got a rousing sendoff to the new season from its faithful fans yesterday and thrilled a packed Teddy Stadium crowd with an excellent display of soccer in a 3-1 victory over Malta's Floriana Valetta in a UEFA Cup preliminary round action.

The scene was not so jolly at Herzliya Municipal Stadium, however, where Maccabi Haifa went down to a lone first-half goal against Partizan Belgrade of Yugoslavia. That loss gives them little hope of advancing to the next round in the Serbian capital in a week's time.

Although suspended from last night's game, Maccabi Haifa midfielder Haim Revivo shared the spotlight when it was announced he is headed for Spanish League Celta Vigo of the Spanish first division.

Betar's season got off to a flying start against the Maltese partisans before a bumper crowd of over 12,000.

The visitors never seriously looked like troubling the home side, whose die-hard fans can draw particular satisfaction from the level of understanding shown among Eli Cohen's players.

The Jerusalemites had most of the early play, but suffered a 12th-minute scare when untypical casualness by Sergei Tretiak almost resulted in the ball being lobbed into Itzik Komfein's goal.

Betar's Istvan Saloi drew first blood, sending a shot into the left-hand corner of his target in the 19th minute after some intelligent approach work by Shmulik Levy.

The Hungarian international had a hand in the second goal 10 minutes later when the Valetta defense failed to clear a Betar corner. Saloi headed the ball over to Eli Ohana who then neatly passed the ball to Ronnen Harazi to hammer home.

Ohana missed a splendid chance later in the half but sent his shot well wide with an open goal begging. Shortly afterwards the third blow came when an attempted scissor kick from Harazi rebounded into the path of Istvan Pishont who drilled the ball beyond the helpless Matthew Camilleri.

After the break there was a marked relaxation by the Betaris, and they paid the price in the 55th minute when Yossi Aboukhis - who had played a leading role in midfield - was dispossessed by Valetta's Jonathan Holland. An intelligent angled ball found Nenad Yeselji in scoring position and Kornfein was unable to prevent the goal.

The crowd called for the introduction of new-signing Itzik Zohar, and management duly obliged by bringing on the former Maccabi Tel Aviv midfielder in

the 63rd minute for Saloi.

Zohar showed some nice touches in his debut, creating two excellent chances for Harazi and Ohana, and coming close with a couple of well-struck free kicks. Despite failing to increase their lead, the Betaris will be content with a margin that should ensure passage into the next round after the return leg in Malta next week.

Mac. Haifa 0

Partizan Belgrade 1
The Haifaite had to come almost all the way to Tel Aviv for an alternative suitable venue for their first effort in Europe this season, as the Kiryat Eliezer turf has recently been re-laid and is not yet ready for use.

The change of ground appeared to be critical, though by no means the only reason for Haifa's poor showing, as it allowed Partizan to take an early lead with a goal in the 10th minute from Gheorge Svetlagic.

The Yugoslavs, who have only recently returned to the fold after several years of isolation due to the sporting boycott of their country during the Balkan war, had little difficulty in finding their feet on the Herzliya turf.

Haifa, on the other hand, was a shadow of its former self, and was barely able to string any decent moves together. Add to that the depleted squad through the sus-

pension of Revivo, Avishai Janno and Ophir Kopel, and Haifa was found wanting in all departments, allowing Partizan to almost waltz through its defense.

The second half was a little better from Haifa's point of view, but by this time, the Yugoslavs realized they had too much to lose and decided to beef up their defense and bold onto their precious away goal.

Giora Spiegel's men looked a little more solid in the second half, stringing some moves together, but never really threatened their opponents. The coach has quite a bit of experimenting to do if he wants to mold a largely new-look side into the powerhouse it has been over the last few seasons. He and his players know that they have a very tall mountain to climb in Belgrade next week if they want to advance to the next round of the competition.

Revivo, who will become the first Israeli international to play for the Spanish first division, will be on a one-year loan in a deal said to be worth \$350,000. He is expected to be available for all of Israel's training camps and international fixtures in the upcoming World Cup qualifying competition which begins in September.

Vigo is situated in Galicia on the northwestern corner of the Iberian peninsula.



ALL TOGETHER NOW - Mexico's synchronized swimming team practices in Atlanta. (Reuters)

Russian weightlifting champ fails drug test

Italians face int'l ban if they leave high jumper on Olympic squad; Sampras out with ankle injury

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian weightlifter Yuri Myshkovets, European champion in the under-83kg class, has failed a drug test and been barred from going to the Olympic Games in Atlanta, his team coach said yesterday.

Czech coach Nalbandyan said Myshkovets had been sent home from a training camp in Podolsk, just outside Moscow, after testing positive for a banned substance in tests ordered by the weightlifting federation after a series of recent doping scandals.

"After being burned several times before, we do not trust anyone, even ourselves. We are very tough now and decided to test everyone," Nalbandyan said.

Further action against Myshkovets will be decided later. Under international regulations, he faces a life ban although the rules are under review.

Myshkovets's disgrace was in sharp contrast to the recent unexpected change in the fortunes of team colleague Alexei Petrov, who tested positive for anabolic steroids at the world championships last year.

The 1995 triple world champion in the mid-heavyweight (91kg) class won a reprieve and is due to compete in Atlanta after his jilted fiancée, a medical student, said she had spiked his protein-food.

The Soviet Union still tops the all-time medal table in Olympic weightlifting with 39 golds, 21 silver and two bronze. But Moscow's influence has declined since the superpower collapsed and since drug testing became stiffer.

Testing was toughened after five lifters from various countries, including three medal winners, were found to have used drugs at the 1988 Games in Seoul. Meanwhile, Australia was hit by a big doping scandal.

Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco faced a four-year ban after being tested positive for the steroid stanozolol, the drug used by Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson in a scandal that stained the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The latest doping scandal was a double embarrassment for Australia - Sydney is the host for the next Olympics in 2000 and its sports chiefs have been campaigning vociferously against the scourge of drugs.

Stanozolol is known as the poor man's drug in athletics where human growth hormone is regarded by dope cheats as more sophisticated.

In other doping matters, Italy was in danger of being banned from international athletics if it failed to throw high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua off its Olympic team after a positive dope test in May.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, doping experts said they could now trace anabolic steroids taken by athletes up to 18 months ago.

In another blow to the Games, Steffi Graf's pull out was followed by a similar withdrawal from Pete Sampras.

Graf, celebrating her seventh Wimbledon singles title, pulled out with a persistent knee injury while Sampras suffered a sprained right Achilles tendon.

Romania's all-conquering women's gymnastic team, winners of the last two world championships, also suffered a blow after a serious injury to Anastaria Bican left them one short.

Asked whether the club believed Blackburn's bid was a response to their own for Shearer, Ramsden replied: "It is an unusual episode to say the least, but it is not for us to question other clubs' motives."

The 30-year-old played a key role in Manchester United's Premier League FA Cup double triumph last season after returning in October from a nine-month worldwide ban imposed for kicking out at a spectator.

He netted 14 league goals as Manchester United pipped Newcastle to the title and added five more in the FA Cup, including the late winner in the 1-0 final triumph over Liverpool.

Blackburn finished seventh in the Premier League last season following their 6th win in 1994-95.

The offer has been rejected out of hand," he said. "Eric will not be going to Blackburn or anywhere else."

Blackburn Rovers launched an audacious £4 million bid for Manchester United star Eric Cantona yesterday.

Blackburn owner Jack Walker and chairman Robert Coar confirmed their club's interest in the French midfielder, but denied it was a tit-for-tat move in response to Manchester United's reported £12m bid for England striker Alan Shearer.

Manchester United assistant secretary Ken Ramsden confirmed the club had received a faxed offer from Blackburn, but insisted: "There is no way the matter will be considered."

Asked whether the club believed Blackburn's bid was a response to their own for Shearer, Ramsden replied: "It is an unusual episode to say the least, but it is not for us to question other clubs' motives."

The 30-year-old played a key role in Manchester United's Premier League FA Cup double triumph last season after returning in October from a nine-month worldwide ban imposed for kicking out at a spectator.

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Blackburn finished seventh in the Premier League last season following their 6th win in 1994-95.

Belle, Murray lead Tribe past KC

KANSAS CITY (AP) - Albert Belle hit his 31st homer and Eddie Murray drove in four runs, leading the Cleveland Indians to a 10-4 win over the Royals on Tuesday.

Belle tied Mark McGwire and Brady Anderson for the major league lead in homers with a two-run shot in the first inning. Belle's home run was his 225th, one behind the Cleveland record set by Earl Averill.

Murray moved past Mel Ott into eighth place on the career list with 1,863 RBIs. His 541st double tied him with Rogers Hornsby for 14th place.

Jack McDowell (8-6) improved to 5-0 with a 3.01 ERA in seven career starts at Kauffman Stadium. Chris Haney (8-7) had his four-game winning streak stopped.

Yankees 9, Red Sox 5
Darryl Strawberry broke a fifth-inning tie with an RBI double, and visiting New York stopped Boston's six-game winning streak.

Jimmy Key (7-6) outpitched Roger Clemens (4-9) for the second time this month, though this one bore no resemblance to their July 1 pitchers' duel. In that game, Key pitched seven shutout innings and Clemens took a no-hitter into the fifth before the Yankees won 2-0.

Brewers 20, Tigers 7
Greg Vaughn hit a grand slam

and drove in five runs, taking over the AL lead with 88 RBIs as Milwaukee romped to a home win.

Jose Valentin, John Jaha and Matt Micks also homered.

The Brewers became the fifth team to score at least 20 runs in a game this year. Not since 1950, when it also happened five times, have there been so many 20-run games in a season.

The Brewers had 18 hits, including four by Valentin and three by Jaha.

Rangers 6, Angels 2
Jim Abbott lost for the 12th time in 13 decisions, and host Texas won behind seven strong innings from Darren Oliver.

Abbott (1-12), who hasn't won since May 2, allowed five runs and five hits in seven innings.

Oliver (8-3) won for the fifth time in six decisions, giving a boost to a Rangers' rotation that had a 6.67 ERA in its previous 15 games. He allowed two runs and five hits, struck out five and walked two.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 0
Juan Guzman pitched his second career shutout and Angel Martinez had two of seven double plays off Mike Mussina as Toronto won on the road.

Joe Carter had four hits for the Blue Jays, who led 5-0 after three innings and coasted to their fourth win in six games since the All-Star break. Toronto had eight dou-

bles in all, one short of the team record.

The Orioles lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Baltimore's Manny Alexander, playing shortstop for the second straight game after Cal Ripken moved to third base, was charged with an error for failing to cover second base on a steal attempt. He also dropped the ball while trying to complete a double play.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Braves 3, Expos 2
In their last game before a 18-day road trip that makes room for the Olympics, Atlanta won on Chipper Jones' run-scoring single in the ninth.

After a day off yesterday, the Braves leave today for a 17-game trip, which will free up Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium for the Olympic baseball tournament.

Atlanta extended its winning streak to five and took a nine-game lead over the second-place Expos in the NL East. Montreal has lost nine of 11.

Mets 6, Phillies 3
Mark Clark survived a shaky first inning to win his sixth straight decision.

After falling behind 2-0 in the first - and throwing 36 pitches - Clark (10-6) held visiting Philadelphia to one run over the next seven innings. Clark, 6-0 over his last eight starts, wound up allowing three runs and nine hits in eight innings with six

strikeouts and two walks.

John Franco finished for his 20th save.

Curt Schilling (3-4), who had won seven consecutive decisions against New York, pitched his first complete game since June 7, 1995, when he threw a two-hitter at San Diego.

Schilling lost to the Mets for the first time since June 7, 1991.

Pirates 10, Cubs 5
Jeff King hit a three-run home run and Mark Johnson had a two-run homer to help visiting Pittsburgh end a four-game losing streak.

King gave the Pirates a 3-0 lead in the first inning with his 22nd homer, but Chicago's Sammy Sosa countered with another three-run homer in the bottom of the inning, raising his NL-leading total to 30.

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Cleveland 10, Kansas City 4
NY 9, Boston 5
Oakland 12, Seattle 5
Milwaukee 20, Detroit 7
Texas 6, California 2
Chicago 11, Minnesota 2
Toronto 6, Baltimore 0

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Atlanta 3, Montreal 2
NY 6, Philadelphia 3
Pittsburgh 10, Chicago 5
San Diego 10, Los Angeles 1
St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 4
Florida 3, Houston 2
Colorado 5, San Francisco 3

Dufaux wins Tour stage amid protests; Riis retains lead

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) - France's Laurent Dufaux won the most difficult stage of the Tour de France yesterday amid minor protests from Basque separatists and heightened security along the 262-kilometer 17th stage.

Overall leader Bjarne Riis finished second and easily kept the yellow jersey with only four days remaining before the 21-stage Tour ends Sunday in Paris.

Five-time defending champion Miguel Indurain, who conceded defeat after losing more than two minutes to Riis in Tuesday's climbing stage, lost more than eight minutes in yesterday's stage through the Pyrenees and sits more than 15 minutes behind Riis.

Basque separatists staged a minor protest halfway through the course that wound through the heart of the Navarre region from Argeles-Gazost, France to Pamplona.

About a dozen protesters strung banners with Basque slogans across the course and slowed racers who were heading down a steep descent. A lead group of riders that included overall leader Riis was nearly forced to come to a stop as protesters yelled into television cameras while police tried to restrain demonstrators.

The race continued without further disturbances. Indurain, who turned 32 Tuesday, struggled again yesterday in the second straight climbing stage in the Pyrenees.

Hundreds of thousands of fans lined the course to welcome Indurain into Pamplona, six miles from his hometown.

Indurain, who was trying to become the first man to win six tours, fell behind the leaders in tough climbs early in the course.

The 3,900km Tour continues today with a relatively easy climbing stage of 226.5km from Pamplona to Hendaye, France.

NBA free agent signings

Atlanta - Dikembe Mutombo, c (Denver).
Chicago - Michael Jordan, g. Dallas - Chris Gatling, f (Miami). Detroit - Michael Curry, g; Don Reid, c.
Houston - Brent Price, g (Washington).
Indiana - Dale Davis, f; Antonio Davis, f.
LA Lakers - Sean Rooks, c

(Atlanta) - Chris Childs, g (New Jersey); Allan Houston, g (Detroit).
Philadelphia - Don MacLean, f (Denver).
Phoenix - John Coker, c. Seattle - Gary Payton, g; Sam Perkins, f.
Washington - Tracy Murray, g (Toronto).

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

CLASSIFIEDS

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DEADLINES OFFICE:
Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 6 p.m. on Thursday.
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DWELLINGS

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENTERTAINMENT

HELEN KAYE

KURDISH songs are Iana Eliya's specialty. She and the seven-member Jabalo Ensemble will appear in an evening of traditional and contemporary protest songs from this embattled people. At Yaron Yerushalmi Hall in the Suzanne Dellal Center tomorrow at 10 p.m. and on Saturday at 9 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

IT'S back to Bach at the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Saturday as music director Zubin Mehta is on the podium leading Johann Sebastian's ever-popular Magnificat while Andras Schiff plays the composer's D-minor keyboard concerto. The program opens with Beethoven's woodwind octet. At the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv (9).

DANCE

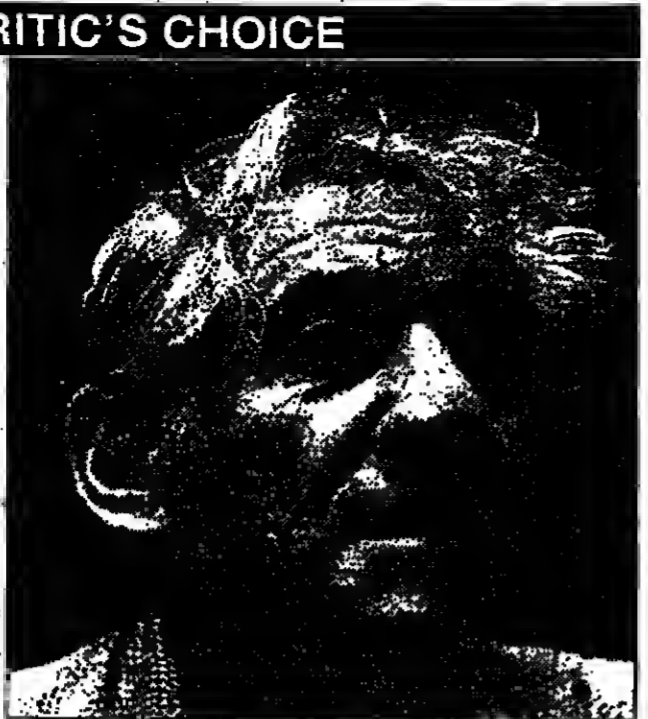
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

IDO Tadmor is slowly but surely becoming one of the hottest names in the local dance scene. His newest opus Ya ("Cell") is still playing to sold-out houses and this weekend those who did not see his first hit, Sima's Poi, can do so at the Suzanne Dellal Centre in Tel Aviv on Friday (10) and Saturday (9).

TELEVISION

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THERE were very few musicians whose artistry was as broad as that of Leonard Bernstein. This month the Discovery Channel is devoting a large portion of its programs to the legendary composer/conductor/educator who was every inch an American yet whose soul was as much in Israel. Now you can enjoy his unique life story and career and his own very personal charm in the extraordinary documentary A Musical Offering. Tonight at 10 (repeated tomorrow at 6). Immediately following is Bernstein's own rendition of Charles Ives's Second Symphony, which he performs magically and precedes with his own very vivid and informative explanations. Tonight 11:30 and tomorrow 7:30.



The Discovery Channel pays tribute to Leonard Bernstein tonight.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

TRAINSPOTTING - Nasty, funny, repulsive, invigorating, Danny Boyle's film offers viewers an instantaneous high, followed by a crash and then another high, and so forth. The movie's manic flip-flops in tone are clearly meant to mirror the ecstatic ascent and corresponding downward spiral the living-dead hero, Mark Renton, feels as he sticks himself with a hypodermic full of heroin and breathes deeply. Adapted by John Hodge from Irvine Welsh's cult novel, the low-budget Scottish movie is designed to shock, though not because of its druggy subject matter, so much as its exuberant tone. Renton and his odd-lod band of buddies enjoy taking dope and the picture refuses to condemn them for it. At the same time, the picture can hardly be called a glowing endorsement of the joys of shooting-up. In the course of the action, one addict craps in his bed, one dies of AIDS and one undergoes a gruesome detox. Trainspotting isn't a great movie, but it's got ferocious energy. It bristles and pounds and later rings in one's ears like a terrific rock song. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)

TELEVISION

- CHANNEL 1: 8:30 News in Arabic 8:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel
CHANNEL 2: 8:00 Animation 8:30 Torrance 8:00 Gays, Gal and Gil 8:15 Kalmaru 8:30 The Little Mermaid 18:00 Late Women 18:30 Torrance 14:00 Gays, Gal and Gil 14:15 Kalmaru 14:30 Noonies 15:00 Auto
CHANNEL 3: 15:30 Zap on the Wave 15:33 Tom and Jerry 15:50 Zappers 16:00 Heartbreak 18:45 Zap on the Wave 16:59 A New Evening 17:54 Zap on the Wave 17:50 Yabudas 18:00 Zap on the Wave
ARABIC PROGRAMS: 18:15 Meeting 19:00 News
HEBREW PROGRAMS: 19:31 Grace Under Fire 20:00 Mebat News 20:05 Culture magazine 21:40 Cantanelli Gold Atlanta 1986 - History of the Olympic Games 22:30 Badarak with Eyal Manor 23:00 Crown Prosecutor 23:30 News 00:00 Stories of the Good Land
CHANNEL 4: 10:00 BBC nature series 11:00 Super Duper 11:30 Mele a Wish (pt) 12:00 Eridi Byron adventure stories 12:30 Basic Arabic 13:00 A matter of time 13:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air 14:00 The 430 All Together Now 15:00 Clip - video clips 18:00 Bold and Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Had Barak 17:00 Zetu 18:00 Santa Barbara 18:00 News 20:00 News 20:30 Hudson Street 21:05 Carole Camera 21:30 Patriot Games (1992) - Fast-paced thriller about a former CIA agent who intervenes in an Irish terrorist attack. Starring Harrison Ford and Anne Archer. (115 mins.) 00:00 News 00:15 Ticket for Two 00:40 Fields of Gold (1991) - Australian drama set in the 1930s. 1:40 Dot on Air 2:00 On the Edge of the Shelf
JORDAN TV: 18:00 Double Dragon 15:30 Pirates 16:10 Olympia 17:00 News fresh 17:01 French programs 18:00 News Headlines 19:35 Hebrew 20:00 News 21:10 Star Trek 22:00 News in English 22:25 Duet of Hearts (1992) - film adaptation of Barbara Cartland's steamy period romance. Starring Robert Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor. (100 mins.) 23:10 Family Matters
MIDDLE EAST TV: 14:00 700 Club 14:30 Edoe Express - a newspaper man, eager to get a scoop marries a woman accused of murder who is accused of murdering her husband. 18:05 Urban Passions 18:30 Dennis the Menace 18:55 Mask 17:20 Poppies 17:45 Front Runners 18:40 A-Team 18:30 World News (Arabic) 20:00 CNN 20:30 Evening Shade 20:30 Belmont 20:40 Sports Michael Keaton, Jack Nicholson and Jim Belushi. (126 mins.) 22:35 700 Club 23:05 Larry King
JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE: 7:15 * Las Vacaciones de M. Hulot 7:15 * Casino 9:30 * Children of a Lesser God 9:30 * Sex, Lies and Videotape 12 midnight G.G. Gil, 10 * The Secret of Santa Vittoria 1:30 * For-Coutchro Island 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * Babe (English dialogue) 7:15 * Babe (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30 * American Gull 9:45 * Fargo 11 a.m., 4:15, 7:15, 9:45 * Now and Then 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * The Little Princess 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15 * Primal Fear 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * White Squall 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * The Huntback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * Now and Then 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * The Huntback of Notre Dame (English dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * Now and Then 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * The Huntback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * Now and Then 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * The Huntback of Notre Dame (English dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * Now and Then 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 * The Huntback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 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9:45 * The Huntback of Notre Dame (English dialogue)

